

2017

Boating Accidents Statistical Report



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Division of Law Enforcement

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2017 Boating Officer of the Year



Officer Megan Malicoat

Officer Megan Malicoat has worked with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for four years and is assigned to Volusia County. She is a leader in her county for working water patrol hours, and she excels at working with others. Officer Malicoat effectively utilizes tools and equipment to be more efficient in her patrols, which allows her to successfully work diverse activities in her area.

She is an integral part in continuing to build upon FWC's strong working relationships with the U.S. Coast Guard at Station Ponce Inlet, the Volusia County Sheriff's Office, and local police departments throughout the county. Over the past year, she has worked with these departments through a number of operational details targeting boating safety and special events. One such detail focused on marine sanitation devices (MSD) where FWC and Volusia Sheriff's Department worked together to inspect vessels for MSD's and compliance with regulations for those systems. There were over 160 vessels checked resulting in 17 warnings and 12 arrests for violations. She has also participated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service in enhanced boating safety and hunting enforcement details.

Officer Malicoat conducted over 1,850 hours of boating safety enforcement. She is a certified breath test operator and participated in a boating safety detail for an event called "Beerpalooza." She made two boating under the influence (BUI) arrests, and assisted in the investigation of three BUIs by operating the breathalyzer.

Megan has responded to many boating accidents in Volusia County and completed the reports for seven accidents. This represents over 40% of the reportable accidents in her county. She also participated in multiple search and rescues. During one search and rescue, a woman had launched her kayak and ventured out into the lagoon. When the weather deteriorated, the woman became disoriented and was unable to find her way out of the marsh canals. The woman called for assistance, and Officer Malicoat was able to calm her down while directing her through the canals. Malicoat located the woman and safely transported her back to the boat ramp.

2017 Boating Educator of the Year



Andrea Rutherford

Andrea Rutherford was selected as the 2017 Boating Educator of the Year. Andrea has been a Coast Guard Auxiliarist since 1992, filling numerous leadership positions at both the Flotilla and Division level. Andrea has been teaching boating safety classes for 24 years, applying many of the skills from her Ph.D. in Education to improve course delivery.

Andrea consistently takes extra responsibilities in the Flotilla including organizing and training instructors, coordinating with the Flotilla's Public Affairs Officer for promotional ads, following up with students, keeping numerous courses updated with current materials and legislation, teaching various courses, and following up with students. While the Flotilla normally teaches classes at their base in Spanish River Park, Boca Raton, she extended the outreach to include other venues, including the Tropic Bay Marine Community and Lynn University. She also coordinated annual boating safety and other skills training for local Naval Sea Cadets.

Andrea forged a partnership with the AustinBlu Foundation to provide funding to offer free boating safety classes. Andrea used social media, local news media, and other avenues to publicize the availability of the classes. The large outreach effort drew students from three area counties. Over the six month grant period, Flotilla 36 taught 91 students, including 28 teens.

Although the grant funding was exhausted in August 2016, Andrea convinced her Flotilla leadership to continue offering the boating safety class free for teens 12-19 years until the end of 2016, and at a reduced cost in 2017, resulting in an additional 20 teenage students being trained. Andrea has continued to promote and appreciate the AustinBlu Foundation for their efforts to increase boating education for teens. The results of Andrea's efforts are best measured by the success of the program. In 2016, 157 students graduated from Flotilla 36 courses. This included 40 teens, a 50% increase as compared to 2015 students receiving the Florida Boating Safety ID Card.

INTRODUCTION

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), powered by science-based leadership, is committed to creating a sustainable and healthy future for Florida's fish, wildlife, water and habitat resources. The FWC serves Floridians and visitors alike in a variety of ways, most of which revolve around our mission of managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people. The Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) is perhaps the most visible tool within the FWC's "tool belt" used to meet its goal of providing healthy resources for safe, satisfied customers.

THE DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Roles and Mission

The FWC is the only state agency in Florida tasked with the management of the state's fish and wildlife resources. As a primary responsibility, the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement focuses on enforcing regulations aimed at protecting and sustaining these resources both for their long-term well-being and the benefit of Florida's residents and visitors, all the while blending in its unique and specialized public safety role. The Division's mission is clear... "Protecting Florida's natural resources and people through proactive and responsive law enforcement services."

Responsibilities

The FWC Division of Law Enforcement provides protection to those who enjoy Florida's natural resources, while also enforcing resource protection and boating safety laws. Officers patrol rural, wilderness, inshore and offshore areas, and where other law enforcement agencies do not routinely patrol. FWC officers have the authority to enforce all the laws of the state and are cross-deputized to enforce federal fisheries and wildlife laws.

In the course of carrying out their broad responsibilities, FWC officers seek every opportunity to educate and introduce Floridians and visitors to the wonders of Florida's fish, wildlife, and natural resources, as well as safe boat operation and safety equipment requirements.

The Division also provides general law enforcement services as part of Florida's statewide emergency response network. Because of their unique jurisdiction and specialized training and equipment, FWC is also charged with protecting the state's waterways and critical infrastructure during times of heightened security threat levels. As seasoned first responders, FWC officers are trained to move fast and efficiently.

Moving forward into the future, FWC will continue to pursue and apply advances in technology to improve response to both conservation and general law enforcement incidents. When duty calls, FWC will always be among the first to respond, providing aid as needed. Until then, FWC will continue to lead the way in natural resource protection, proactive boating safety law enforcement and education are what we do best.

Uniquely prepared

On the water, in the woods and in the air, FWC law enforcement officers are uniquely situated and equipped to identify and respond to illegal activity and promote public safety, particularly in the maritime and wilderness areas.

Core Missions

The FWC protects Florida's people and natural resources. The Division of Law Enforcement is an integral part of the agency and is vital in fulfilling the agency's responsibilities. These core missions reflect the unique capabilities, training and equipment our personnel use to achieve those responsibilities.

Resource Protection and

Access: State and federal fisheries and wildlife law enforcement. Threatened and endangered species protection. Captive and nonnative wildlife management. Habitat protection. Investigations. Education and outreach programs developing the next generation that cares.

Environmental Protection:

State and federal environmental law enforcement. Cultural and natural resources protection and preservation. State lands and water quality protection. Investigations. Education and outreach programs developing the next generation that cares.

Boating and Waterways:

Boating rules and regulation enforcement. Boating safety campaigns and education. Access to public waters. Waterway management and accurate signage. Boating accident investigations. Derelict vessel prevention and investigation. Vessel theft and title fraud investigation.

Public Safety: Provide a safe experience for residents and visitors engaged in outdoor activities. Interagency support and coordination. Specialized response units. Disaster response. Search and rescue. Intelligence and security. General and specialized law enforcement services. Critical incident investigations.

Intervention equals prevention on the water

FWC officers help to ensure Floridians and visitors are safe when they are on the water. The FWC accomplishes this through proactive law enforcement, initiating boating safety and fisheries inspections, and identifying and minimizing potential navigation or environmental hazards in the waterways.

FWC’s Boating and Waterways Section supports officer efforts by coordinating statewide boating safety efforts. Some examples of support include education campaigns, ensuring waterway markers are accurate and maintained, permitting and marking speed-regulated areas, coordinating initiatives aimed at removing derelict vessels and improving public boating access.

With close to a million vessels, Florida leads the nation in the number of vessels registered in a state. As a negative consequence of high vessel numbers and our mild climate, Florida also has the highest number of boating fatalities in the nation annually. The vast size of our inland, coastal and offshore patrol areas combined with a significant population of avid and diverse boaters, presents a unique and daunting challenge for FWC and our local and federal maritime enforcement partners.

Boating education is critical

The 2017 Boating Accidents Statistical Report indicates there were 766 reportable boating accidents and 67 boating related fatalities in the calendar year. This total includes three missing persons who at the end of 2017 have not been located or accounted for and their circumstances suggest that death or serious injury has occurred. Many of the deaths were due to victims falling overboard and drowning. A large number of the deaths could have been prevented if the victims had worn life jackets. FWC continues efforts to reduce the number of boating-related fatalities through education about the importance of wearing life jackets while boating.

Florida’s current boating safety education law only applies to boaters born on or after January 1, 1988 operating a motorized vessel of 10 horsepower or greater. The face-to-face contacts by FWC officers and our partner agencies are a critical part of our outreach efforts and education to the boating public. These statistics show us that the boat operator most likely to be involved in a boating accident is a middle-age or older male who has boating experience yet has never learned the most important safety considerations by having taken a boating safety course. When officers observe boating violations or perform fresh and saltwater resource enforcement activities, they conduct boating safety inspections aimed at both identifying and preventing violations or accidents. FWC officers make boating safer and ultimately save lives.

Safe boating is a choice

Florida is the leader in promoting boating accident prevention. The FWC, in association with the National Safe Boating Council, Bombardier Recreational Products Inc., West Marine, and the USCG has launched a statewide boating safety campaign as part of a national initiative. The “Wear It Florida” campaign encourages boaters to wear life jackets anytime they are on the water and educates boaters about the ease and convenience of inflatable life jackets. The campaign is designed to reach the public through a variety of methods including media events, exhibits, personal contacts, social media, radio and televised public service announcements.

--- Division of Law Enforcement Values ---

Integrity

We value candor, honesty and the highest standards of ethical behavior and are committed to upholding our positions of public trust.

Professionalism

We value the skillful performance which demonstrates a clear sense of commitment and direction in an environment that encourages teamwork and innovation.

Dedication

We value the motivation and dedication with which our members serve the visitors and residents of Florida.

Adaptability

We value our unique capability to adapt and respond appropriately to diverse circumstances in all environments.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The 2017 Boating Accidents Statistical Report is compiled by the Boating and Waterways Section of the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement. Most of the data contained in this report is gathered from boating accident investigative reports submitted by FWC officers and our marine law enforcement partners.

At the end of each calendar year, boating accident data is compiled and assembled into Florida's annual report. The FWC's Boating and Waterways Section analyzes this information and uses it to formulate proactive plans aimed at reducing the number of boating accidents and their related injuries, fatalities and property damage. This information is also reported to the USCG's Boating Safety Division in Washington, D.C., to be included in the national database consisting of data from all U.S. states and territories.

The statistics reflect data from "reportable boating accidents" that occurred in Florida. Boating accidents must meet at least one of the five criteria below to be classified as reportable:

- A person dies.
- A person disappears under circumstances that indicate possible death or injury.
- A person receives an injury requiring medical treatment beyond immediate first aid.
- There is at least \$2,000 aggregate property damage to the vessel(s) or other property.
- There is a total loss of a vessel.

The number of vessels registered in Florida increased slightly in 2017. With 944,162 registered vessels, Florida leads the nation in registered vessels. Additionally, it is estimated that up to one million non-registered vessels actively use Florida's waters, and this segment of the boating population appears to still be growing. Our waterways show the strains of congestion as each year brings more residents and visitors together to utilize our abundant water resources and enjoy Florida's boating lifestyle.



2017 SUMMARY

BOATING ACCIDENT REVIEW

- Florida leads the nation with a total number of **944,162** registered vessels in 2017.
- There were a total of **766** reportable boating accidents in 2017.

REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENT

- Collision with vessel was the leading type of accident with a total of **220 (29%)**.
- Towed watersport activities were involved in **15 accidents**, resulting in **two fatalities and 12 injuries**.
- Paddlecraft (canoes, kayaks, rowboats, paddleboards) were involved in **8 accidents** resulting in **seven fatalities** and **two injuries**.
- **July** was the month with the highest number of accidents (**113**).
- Monroe County reported the highest number of accidents and injuries (96 total accidents with six fatalities and 58 injuries).

REPORTABLE BOATING FATALITIES

- **61 fatal accidents** for 2017 resulting in **67 fatalities**.
- **41%** of the fatal accidents were **falls overboard** (25 accidents). Boaters falling overboard remains the leading type of boating fatality.
- **The leading cause of death** in fatal boating accidents was **drowning** with **35 fatalities (52%)**.
- **July** was the deadliest month in 2017 with **12 fatalities**.
- Alcohol or drug-use is reported to have played a role in **24%** boating fatalities.
- **90% (60)** of the victims of fatal boating accidents were **males**.
- **75% (54)** of the 72 operators involved in fatal accidents were **age 36 or older**.
- **74% (53)** of all vessels involved in fatal accidents in 2017 were **21 feet in length or less**.

REPORTABLE BOATING INJURIES

- There were **766 accidents** resulting in **437 injuries**. The rate of injury was 46 injuries per 100,000 registered vessels.

REPORTABLE PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS

- Personal watercraft (PWC) accounted for 13% of all registered vessels in Florida.
- PWC were involved in 20% (151) of reportable boating accidents.
- **Rented PWC** represented **47% (96)** of PWC involved in accidents.
- **42% (63)** of PWC accidents involved a **collision with another vessel**.
- 40% of PWC accidents occurred in Monroe (22), Miami-Dade (21), and Pinellas (17) counties.
- **11 fatalities** resulted from the 151 PWC accidents.

BOATING EDUCATION STATISTICS

- FWC issued 48,301 Boating Safety Education ID Cards in 2017.
- 67% of the cards were issued to persons born on or after January 1, 1988.
- Of the 48,301 cards issued, 35,153 were issued to males, 13,148 were issued to females. An additional 1,049 cards were printed for lost, damaged and information changes.
- **67%** of the **operators** involved in fatal accidents had **no formal boater education**.

Boating accident statistics for 2017 were compiled on March 13, 2018. Reports received after that date are not included in the following data. In 2017, there were three missing persons reported. There has not been any updated information as to their status. The three missing persons have been included in the fatality data.

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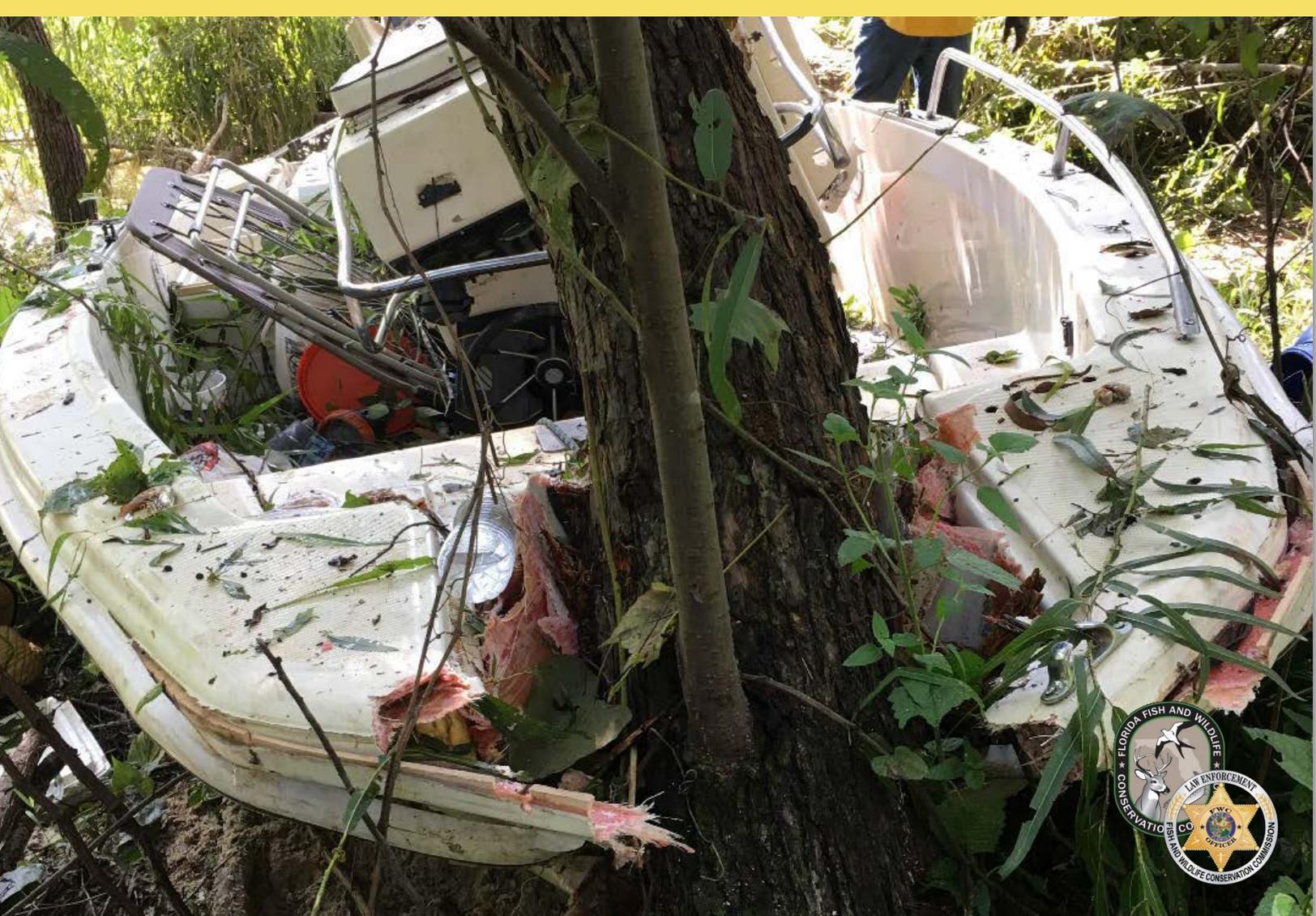
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Photo detail: Officer Bryce Phillippi investigating a boating accident in Tampa Bay. The vessel impacted the rocks along the Howard Frankland Bridge during a thunderstorm.

Boating Accident Review



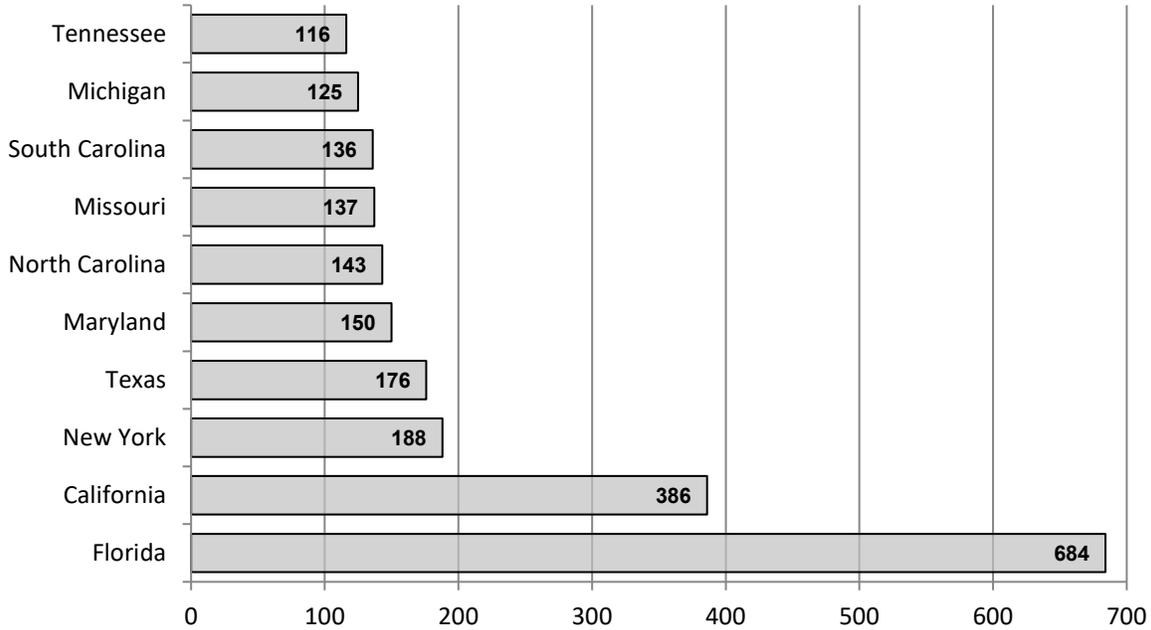
Boating Accident Review photo detail

Cover Photo: (Courtesy of FWC)

NW17-10570: In the early morning hours of August 21, 2017, a 17-foot-vessel was being operated by a 36-year-old male on the Apalachicola River. The vessel made a sharp turn and impacted the shoreline ejecting the operator. The vessel continued forward through the brush and careened off of a tree, landing back in the river. The vessel crossed the river and came to a stop after striking a large tree. The operator was able to drift to a floating structure and waited several hours before being discovered by rescue personnel.

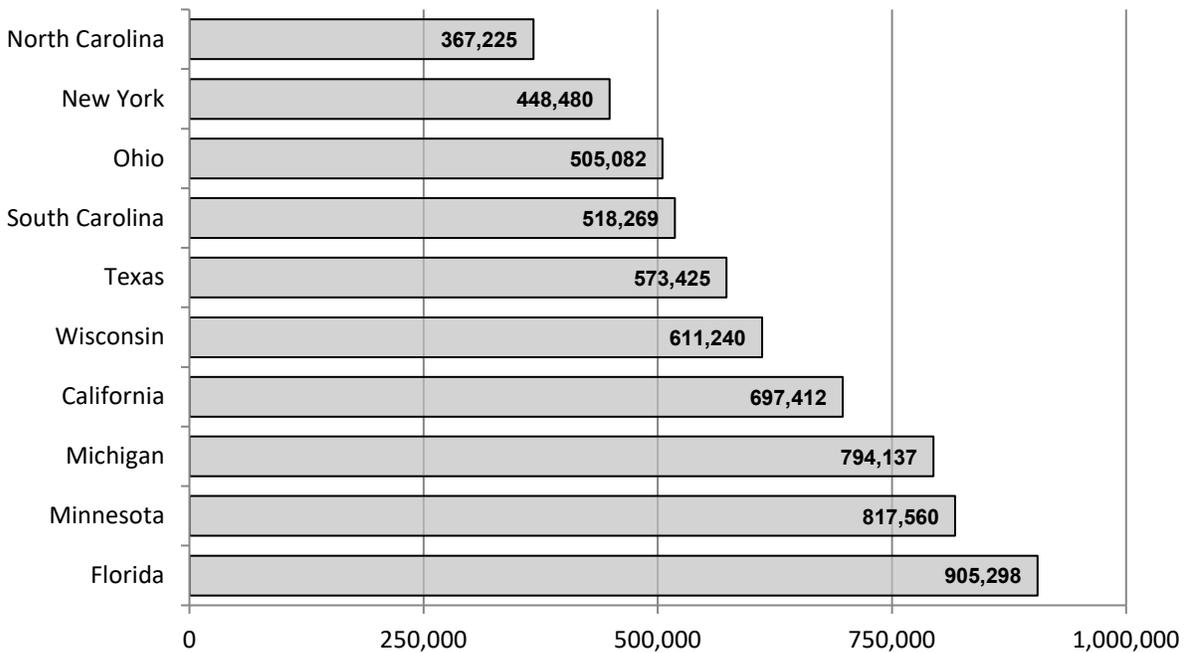
2017 BOATING ACCIDENT REVIEW

NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS - TOP TEN STATES 2016 (RECREATIONAL)



*Based on \$2,000 damage threshold
Source: U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division

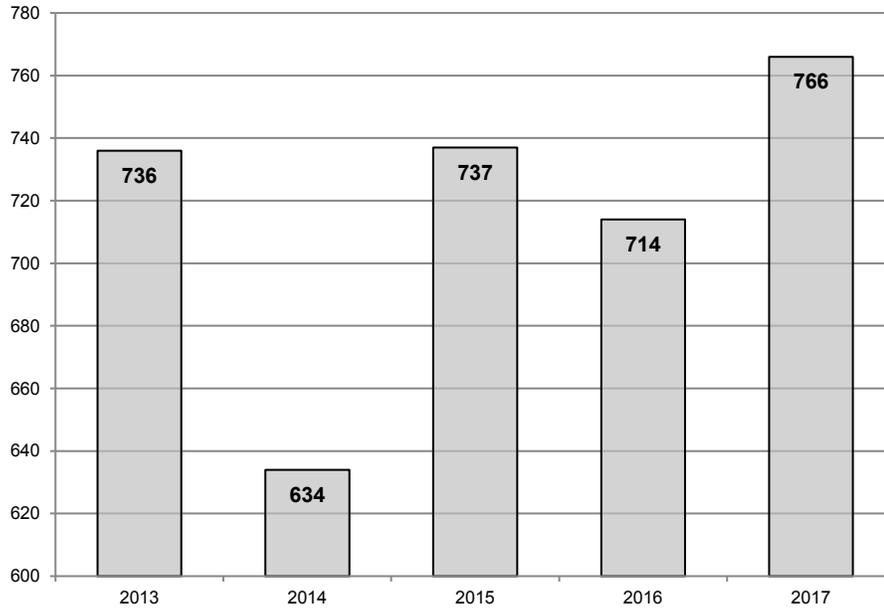
REGISTERED VESSELS - TOP TEN STATES 2016 (RECREATIONAL)



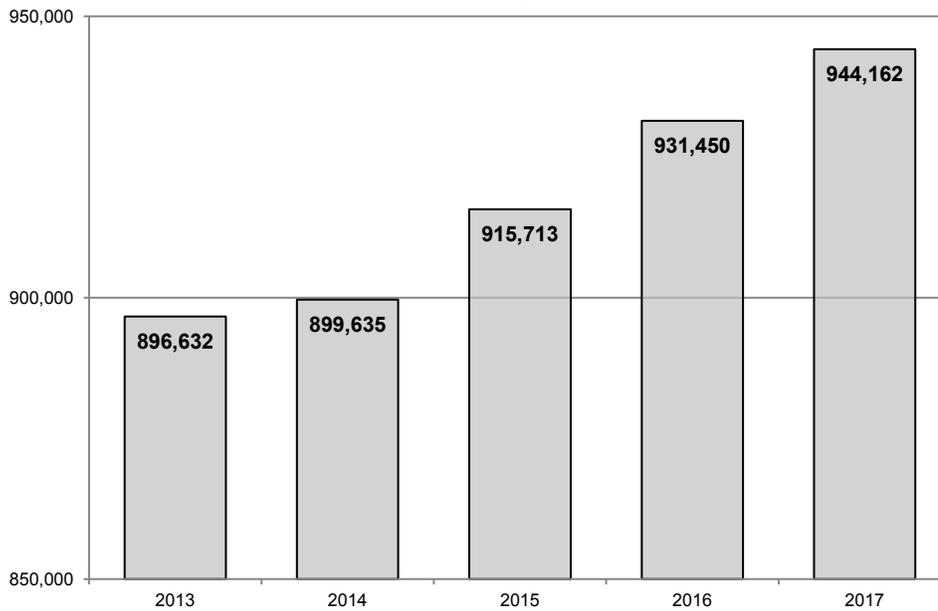
*Totals represent number of recreationally registered vessels in 2016
Source: U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division

2017 BOATING ACCIDENT REVIEW

2013 - 2017 FLORIDA REPORTABLE ACCIDENTS



2013-2017 FLORIDA TOTAL REGISTERED VESSELS



*Totals represent all currently registered vessels for that year
Source: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV)

Reportable Boating Accidents



Reportable Boating Accidents photo detail

Cover Photo: (Courtesy of FWC)

NE17-1817: On February 15, 2017, at approximately 6:30 pm, a 19-foot-motorboat was being operated by a 20-year-old male in Dora Canal. The steering cable broke while the vessel was in operation, the vessel ran aground on the north bank and tree line.

2017 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

2017 VESSEL REGISTRATION AND ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY								
County	Recreational Vessels	Total Vessels	Reportable Accidents	Fatalities	Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Alachua	10,881	11,166	2	1	0	\$3,000	41	1:5,583
Baker	2,595	2,605	0	0	0	\$0		0
Bay	17,128	17,933	11	0	12	\$63,950	16	1:1,630
Bradford	2,326	2,337	0	0	0	\$0		0
Brevard	32,911	34,146	21	2	12	\$186,960	12	1:1,626
Broward	44,096	45,466	63	5	20	\$1,351,100	3	1:722
Calhoun	1,652	1,683	0	0	0	\$0		0
Charlotte	22,153	22,822	9	0	8	\$12,500	21	1:2,536
Citrus	15,966	16,631	9	0	9	\$21,447	22	1:1,848
Clay	12,503	12,707	4	0	4	\$1,400	36	1:3,177
Collier	21,831	22,864	31	1	20	\$275,072	8	1:738
Columbia	4,454	4,498	0	0	0	\$0		0
Desoto	2,211	2,298	1	0	1	\$0	50	1:2,298
Dixie	2,270	2,531	5	0	5	\$12,800	33	1:526
Duval	26,037	26,720	25	1	16	\$312,100	10	1:1,069
Escambia	15,250	15,632	10	1	5	\$40,500	18	1:1,563
Flagler	5,688	5,796	4	0	3	\$92,000	35	1:1,449
Franklin	2,355	3,160	8	1	4	\$81,300	27	1:395
Gadsden	2,274	2,305	1	1	3	\$60,000	48	1:2,305
Gilchrist	1,725	1,750	1	0	2	\$1,600	49	1:1,750
Glades	1,259	1,292	6	1	5	\$69,700	29	1:215
Gulf	2,776	3,085	2	1	2	\$10,000	42	1:1,543
Hamilton	874	882	0	0	0	\$0		0
Hardee	1,646	1,670	1	0	0	\$5,000		1:1,670
Hendry	2,928	3,048	2	0	1	\$6,300	40	1:1,524
Hernando	9,724	9,937	9	0	1	\$39,000	20	1:1,104
Highlands	8,927	9,025	5	4	4	\$13,500	34	1:1,805
Hillsborough	40,082	40,954	30	6	14	\$163,304	9	1:1,365
Holmes	2,100	2,124	0	0	0	\$0		0
Indian River	10,548	10,962	13	1	5	\$76,700	15	1:843
Jackson	4,657	4,683	1	0	0	\$5,000	51	1:4,683
Jefferson	1,297	1,317	1	0	0	\$4,000	52	1:1,317
Lafayette	933	939	1	1	0	\$0	53	1:939
Lake	20,854	21,137	8	0	6	\$27,000	28	1:2,642
Lee	46,354	47,776	43	9	21	\$472,539	5	1:1,111
Leon	12,455	12,610	0	0	0	\$0		0
Levy	4,206	4,578	1	0	0	\$5,000	54	1:4,578

2017 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

2017 VESSEL REGISTRATION AND ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY								
County	Recreational Vessels	Total Vessels	Reportable Accidents	Fatalities	Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Liberty	1,111	1,131	1	0	0	\$2,000	55	1:1,131
Madison	1,165	1,170	0	0	0	\$0		0
Manatee	18,757	19,604	10	0	5	\$47,150	19	1:1,960
Marion	18,755	19,022	3	0	2	\$11,200	39	1:6,340
Martin	17,320	18,107	22	1	7	\$347,725	11	1:823
Miami-Dade	64,327	66,999	75	5	47	\$775,850	2	1:893
Monroe	26,467	29,377	96	6	58	\$1,383,845	1	1:306
Nassau	6,266	6,437	1	0	2	\$300	56	1:6,437
Okaloosa	18,106	18,787	34	2	27	\$191,199	7	1:553
Okeechobee	4,796	4,959	1	0	0	\$2,000	46	1:4,959
Orange	27,023	27,463	6	4	6	\$14,000	31	1:4,577
Osceola	7,959	8,103	9	1	9	\$75,200	24	1:900
Palm Beach	35,880	37,109	41	3	16	\$435,900	6	1:905
Pasco	24,095	24,590	6	1	3	\$24,950	30	1:4,098
Pinellas	48,936	50,620	45	2	24	\$1,129,035	4	1:1,125
Polk	28,321	28,825	8	3	1	\$33,000	25	1:3,603
Putnam	7,445	7,718	5	1	1	\$30,200	32	1:1,544
Santa Rosa	14,410	14,693	9	0	5	\$48,501	23	1:1,633
Sarasota	22,138	22,751	21	1	14	\$258,900	13	1:1,803
Seminole	18,039	18,324	3	0	2	\$17,800	38	1:6,108
St. Johns	14,450	14,951	11	1	1	\$50,000	17	1:1,359
St. Lucie	12,430	12,987	8	0	5	\$78,650	26	1:1,623
Sumter	4,564	4,620	0	0	0	\$0		0
Suwannee	2,857	2,882	1	0	0	\$2,300	45	1:2,882
Taylor	3,597	3,751	2	0	1	\$2,150	43	1:1,876
Union	1,026	1,038	0	0	0	\$0		0
Volusia	27,209	28,132	14	0	12	\$81,550	14	1:2,009
Wakulla	4,913	5,217	2	0	3	\$48,000	44	1:2,609
Walton	5,793	5,953	4	0	3	\$37,000	37	1:1,488
Washington	2,424	2,447	0	0	0	\$0		0
DHSMV	3,857	4,639						
TOTAL	912,392	944,162	766	67	437	\$8,531,187		1:1,233

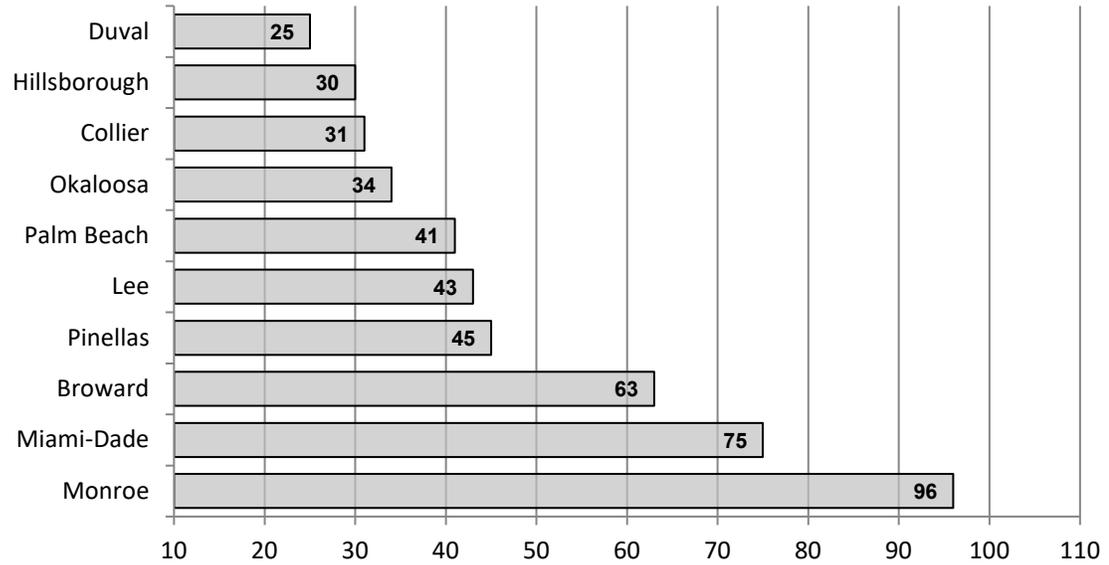
*Accident Rate = $\frac{\text{\# of Registered Vessels}}{\text{\# of Accidents}}$

Those counties in bold print represent the top ten counties

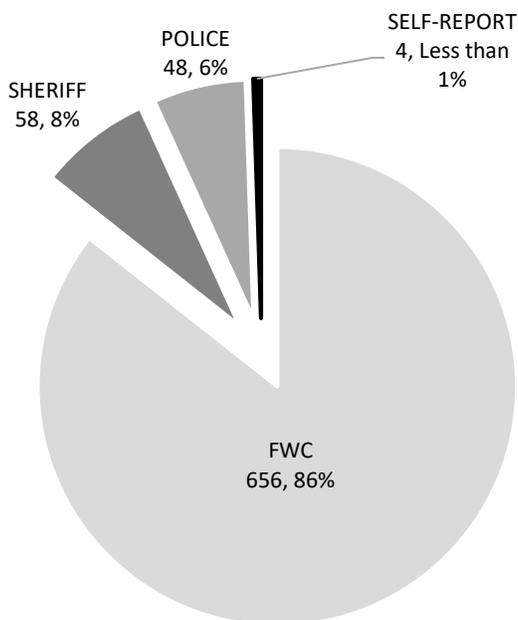
DHSMV numbers represent registrations issued at main office instead of at the county level

2017 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

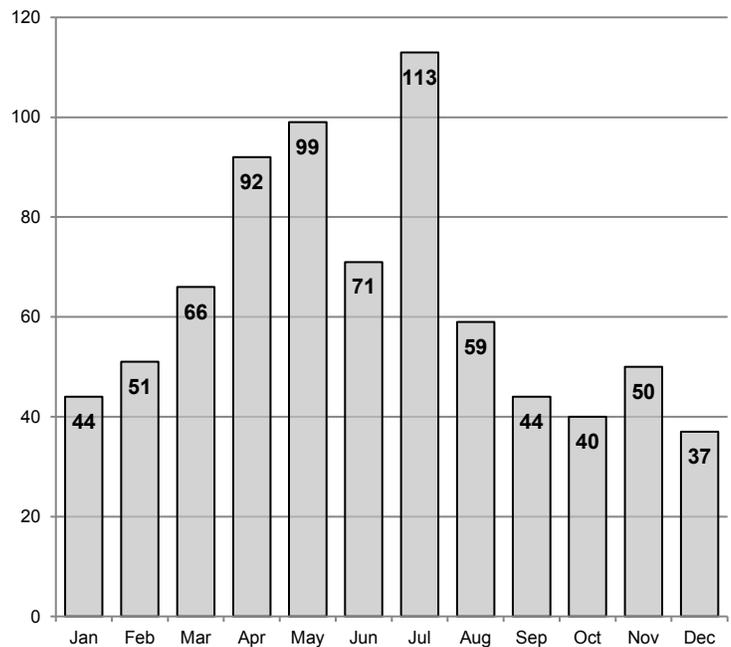
TOP TEN COUNTIES



INVESTIGATING AGENCY



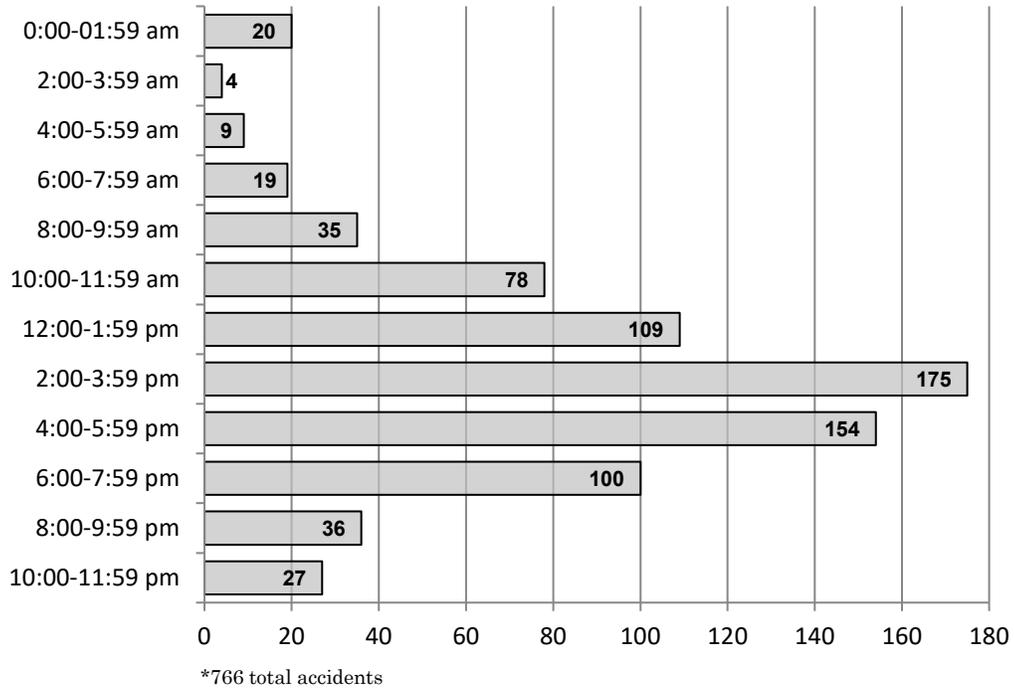
ACCIDENTS BY MONTH



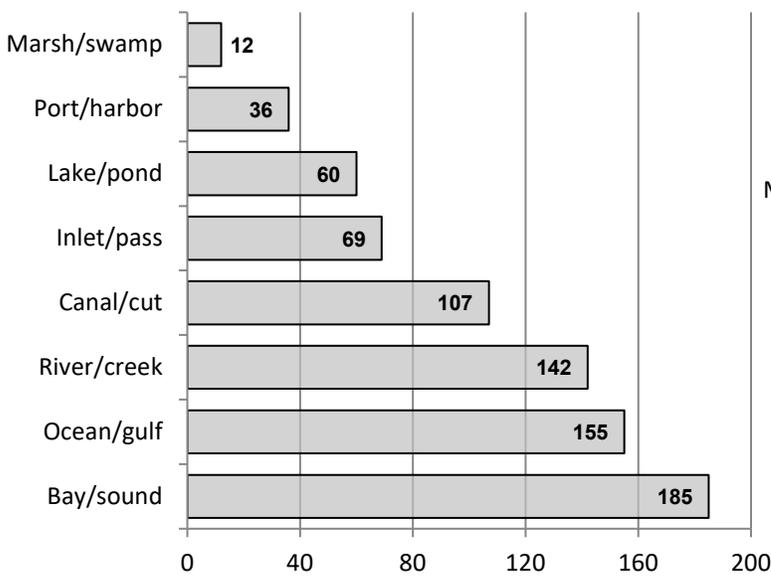
*766 total accidents

2017 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

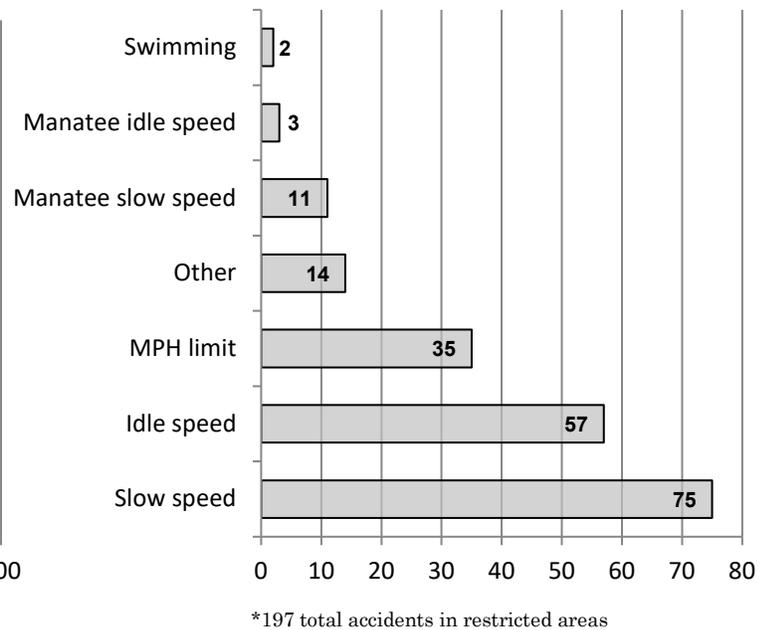
TIME OF DAY



ACCIDENT SITE LOCATION

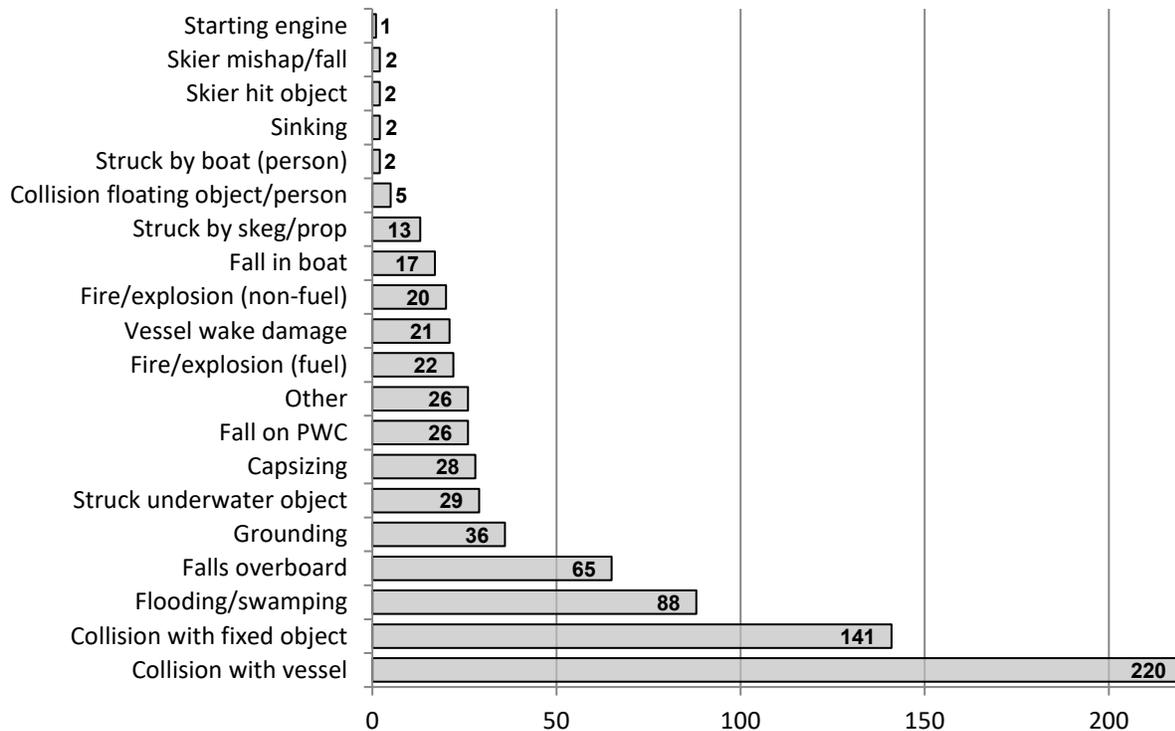


RESTRICTED AREA ACCIDENTS



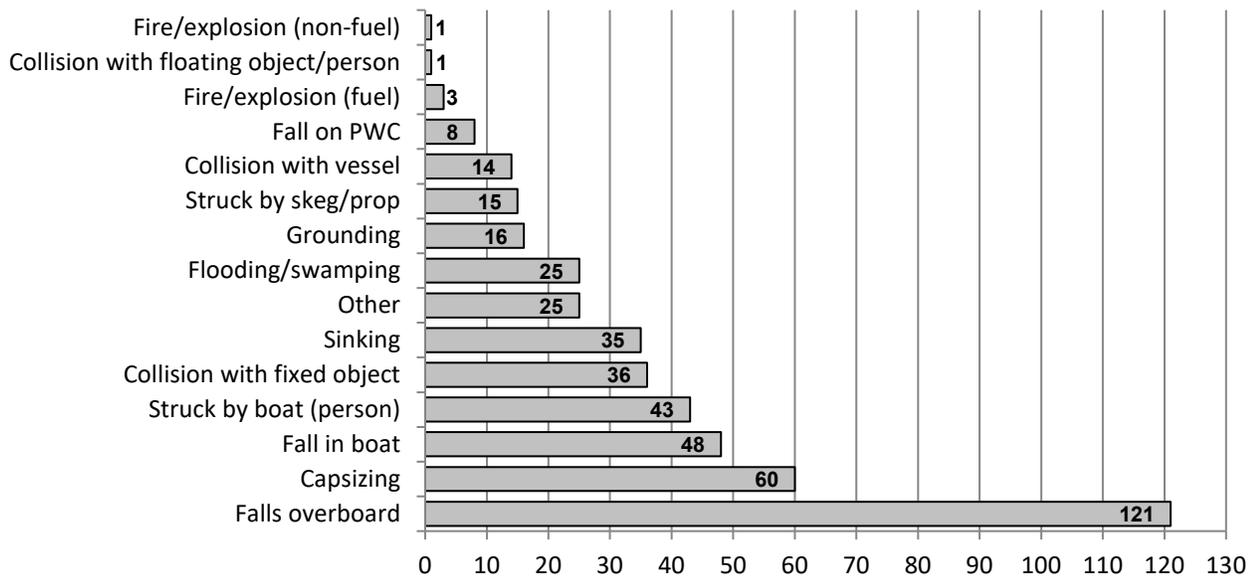
2017 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT



*766 accidents involving 1,067 vessels
(Based on first harmful event as determined by the state reviewing authority)

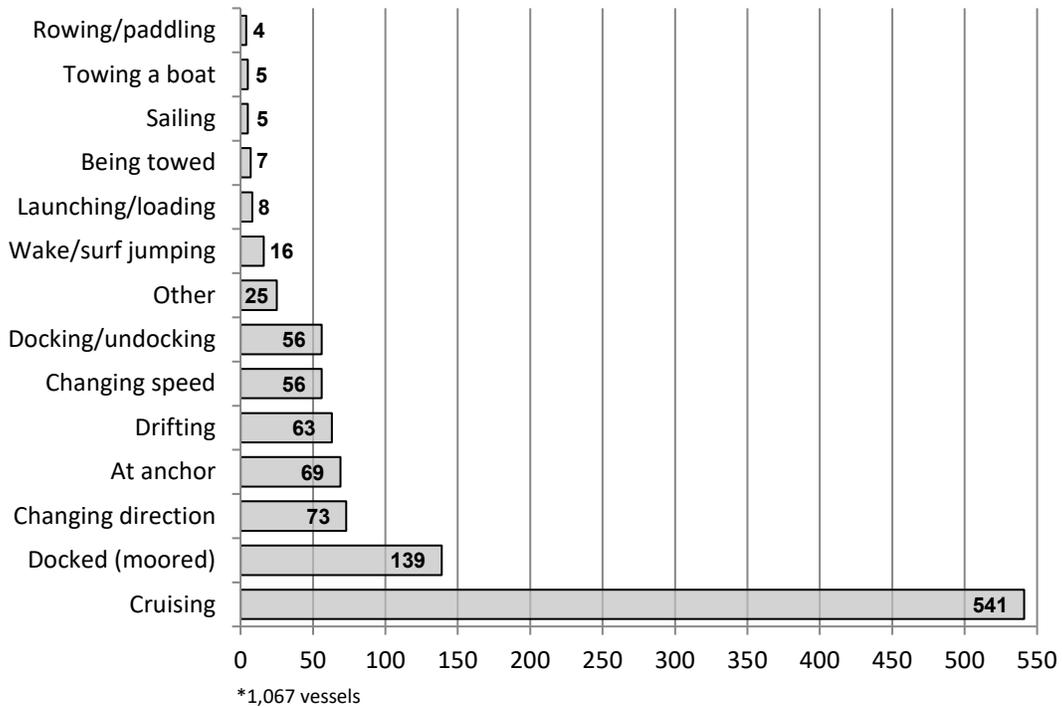
SECONDARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT



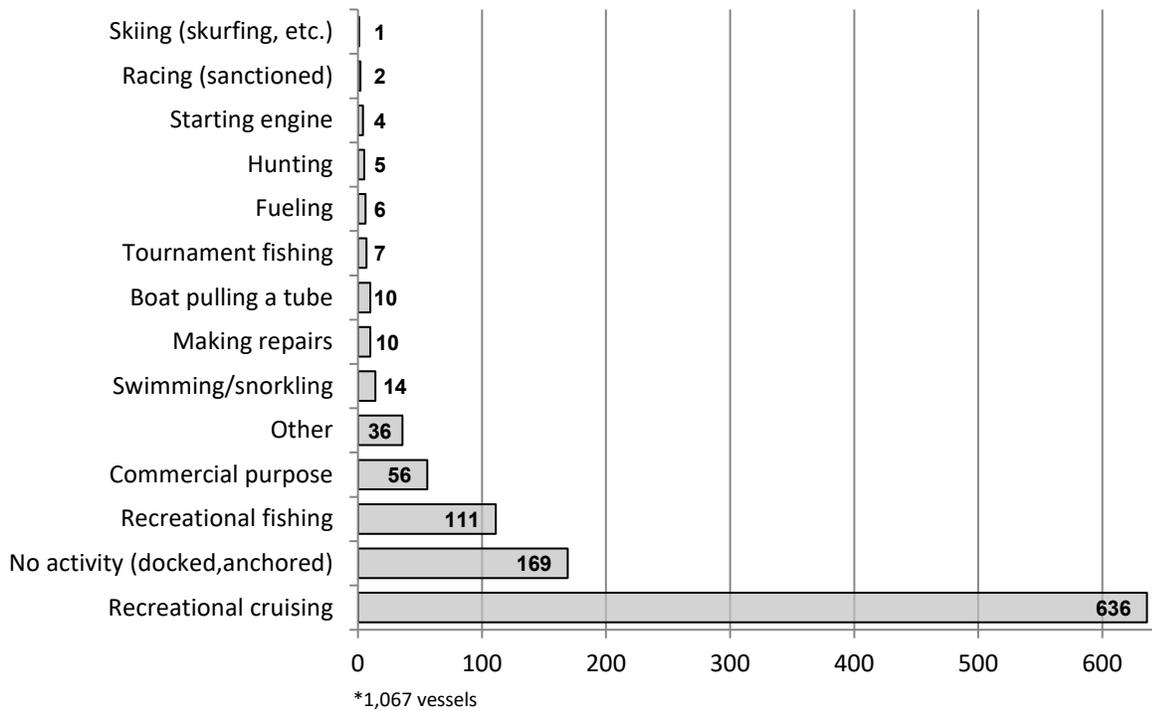
*315 of the 766 accidents did not have a secondary type of accident

2017 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT

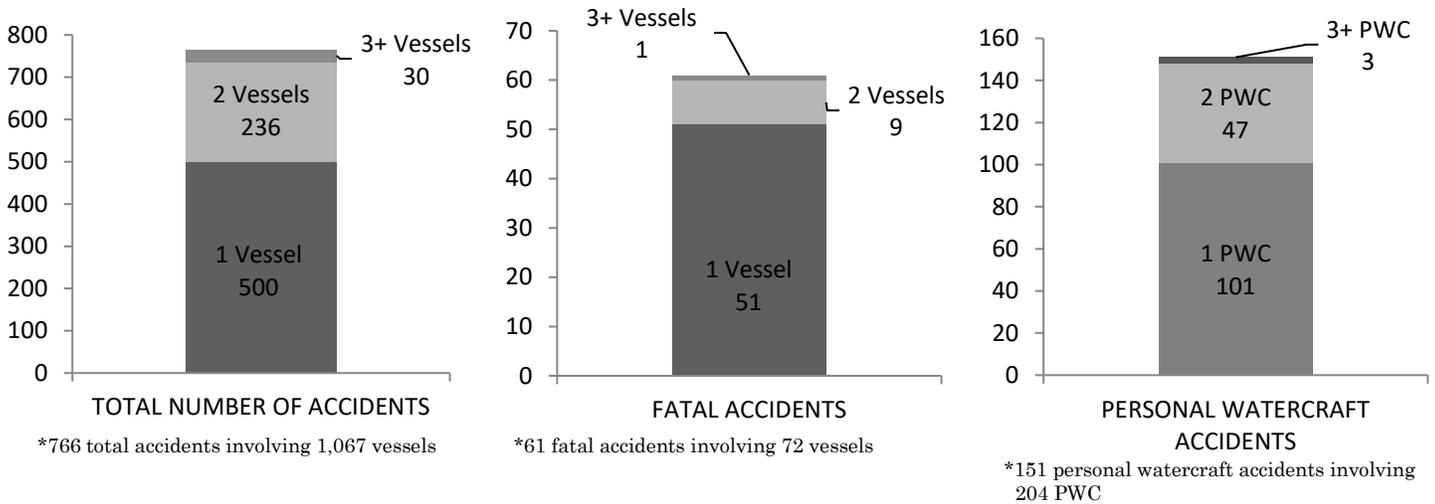


ACTIVITY AT TIME OF ACCIDENT

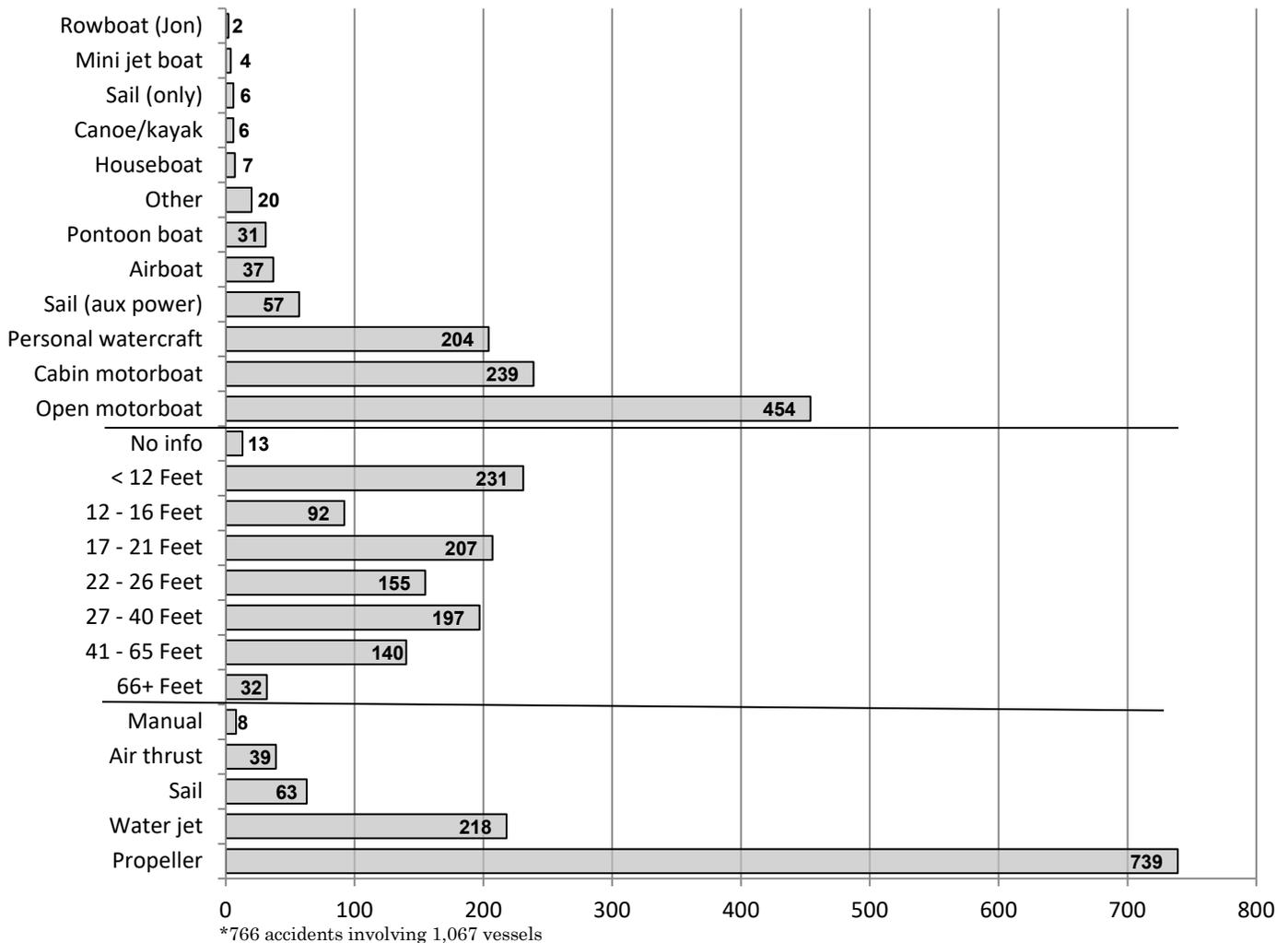


2017 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

VESSEL COUNT IN REPORTABLE ACCIDENTS

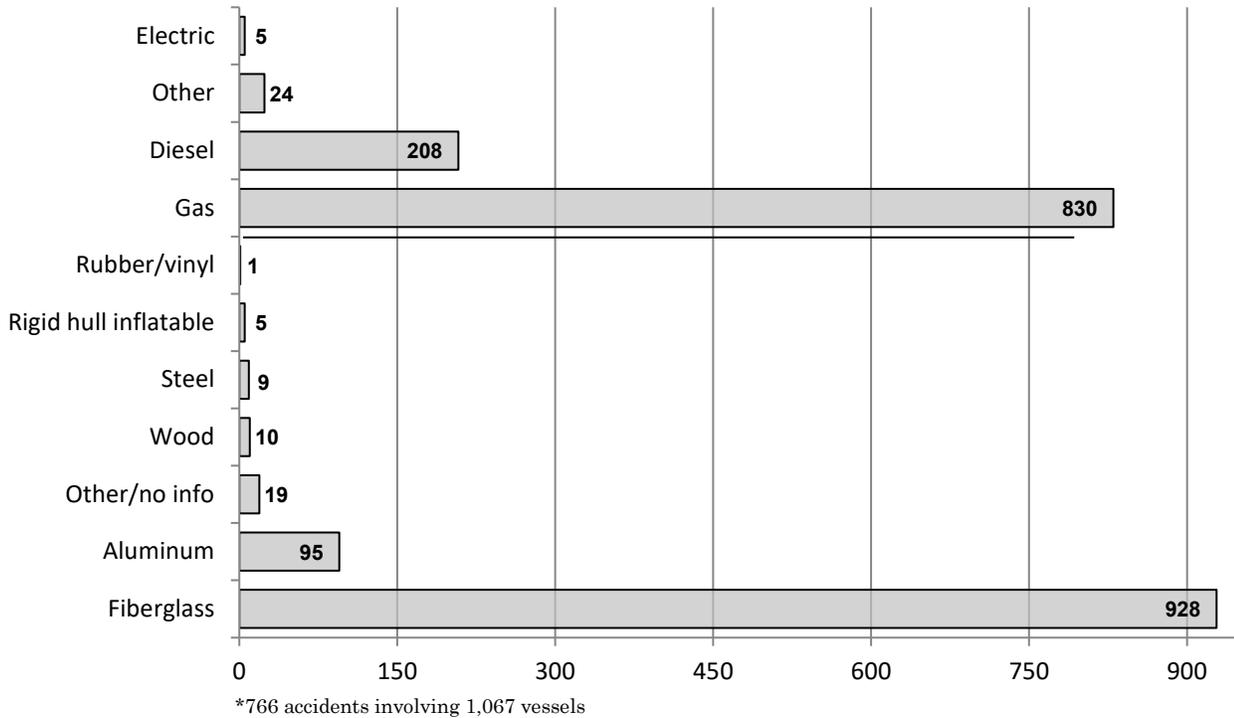


VESSEL TYPE, LENGTH & PROPULSION

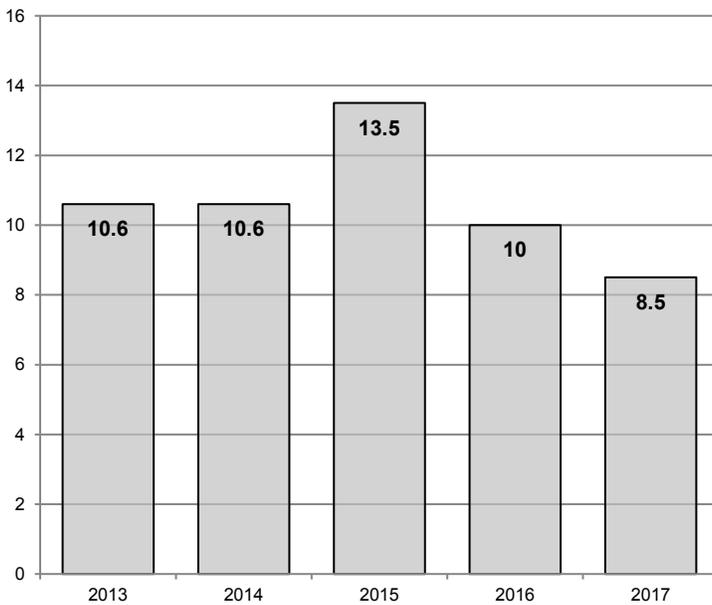


2017 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

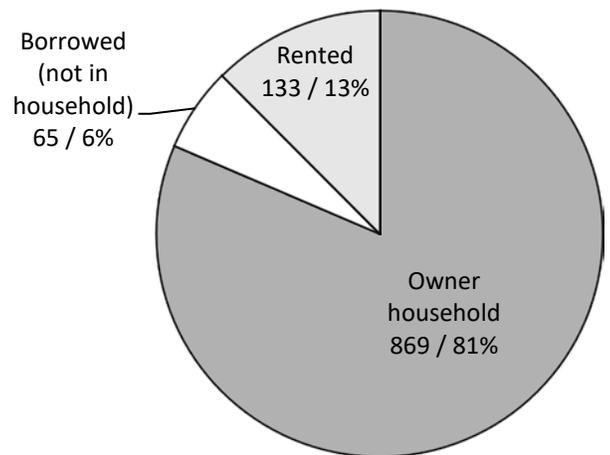
VESSEL FUEL & HULL TYPE



VESSEL & PROPERTY DAMAGE FIGURES (IN MILLIONS)

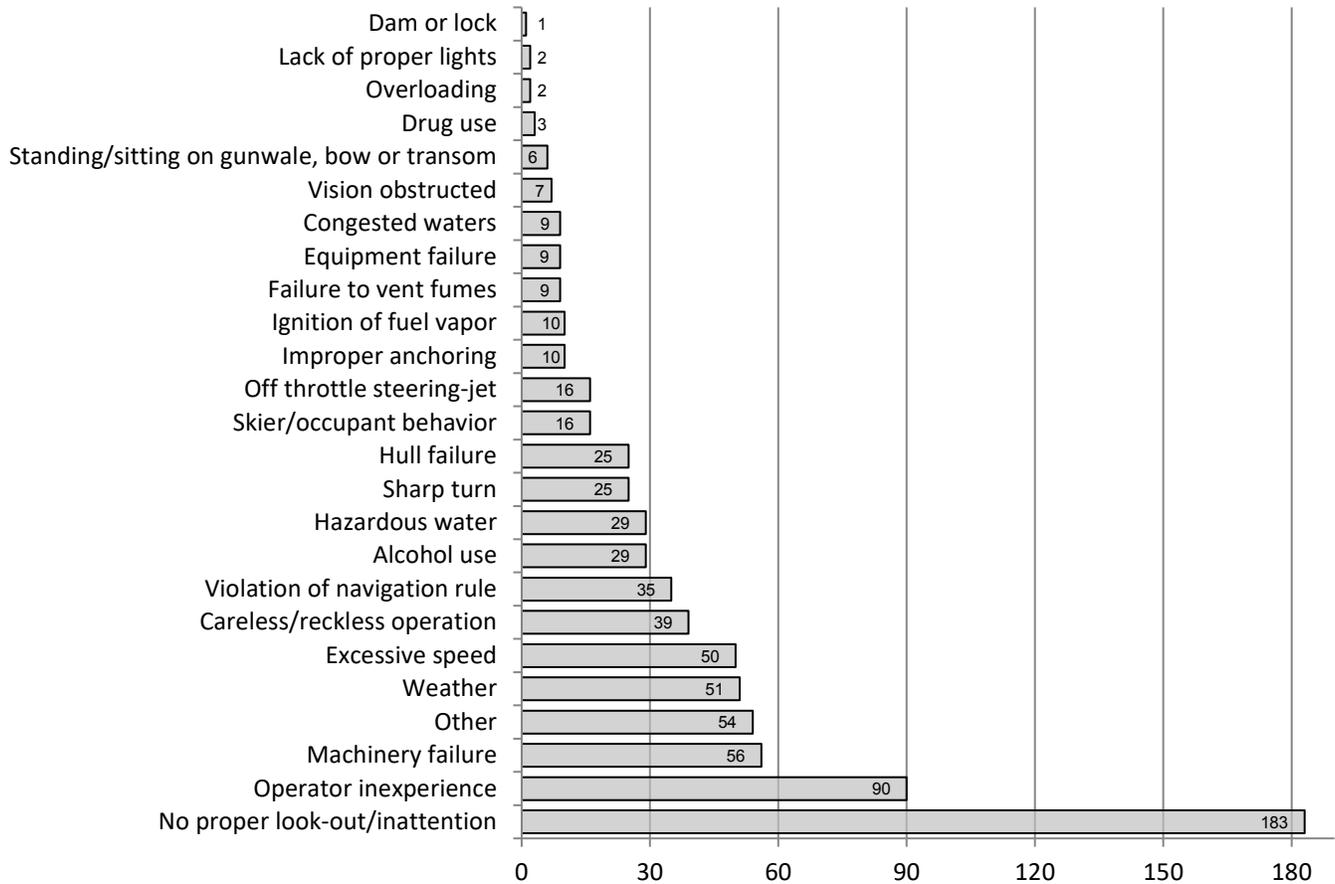


VESSEL OWNERSHIP

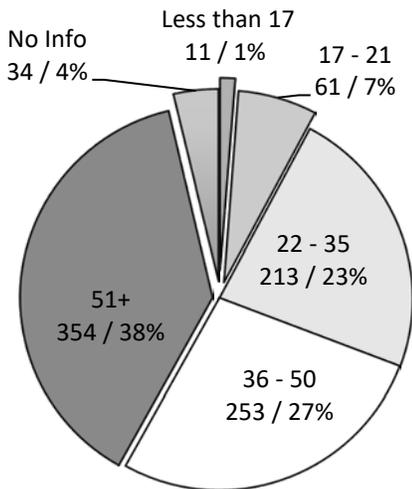


2017 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

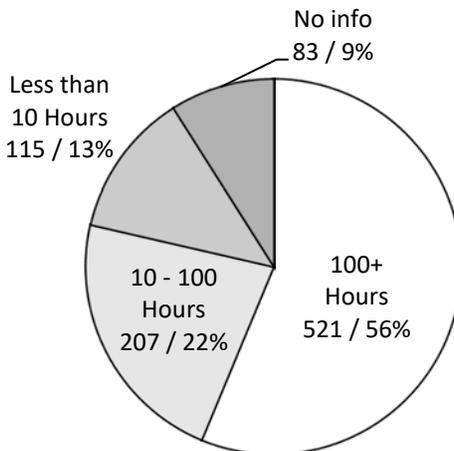
PRIMARY CAUSE ASSESSED BY REVIEWING AUTHORITY



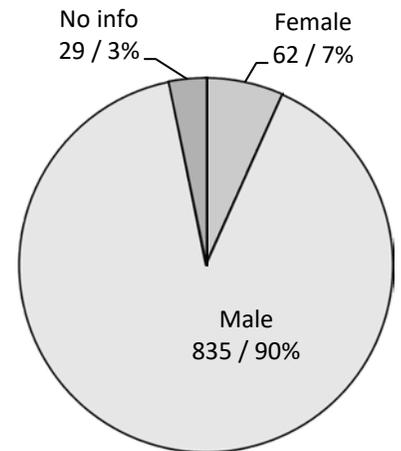
OPERATOR AGE



OPERATOR EXPERIENCE (HOURS)



OPERATOR GENDER

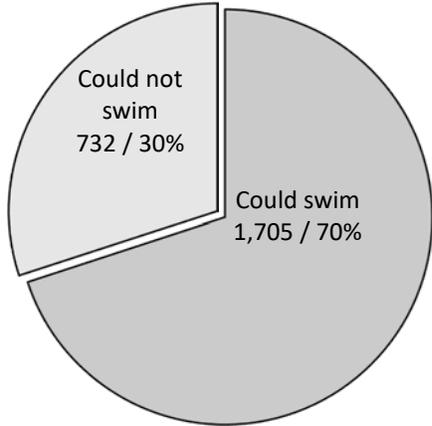


*766 accidents involving 926 operators

Vessels may have been docked, anchored, or involved in a hit and run accident which would result in no operator information
Also some information may not be provided by operators

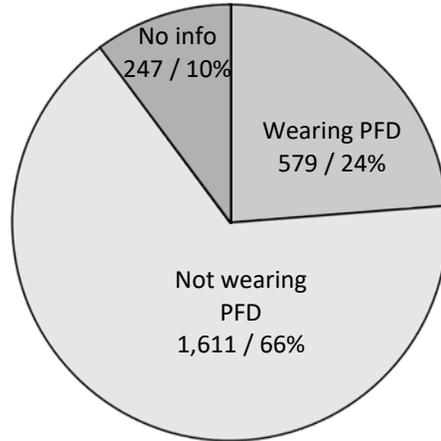
2017 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

OPERATOR/OCCUPANT SWIMMING ABILITY

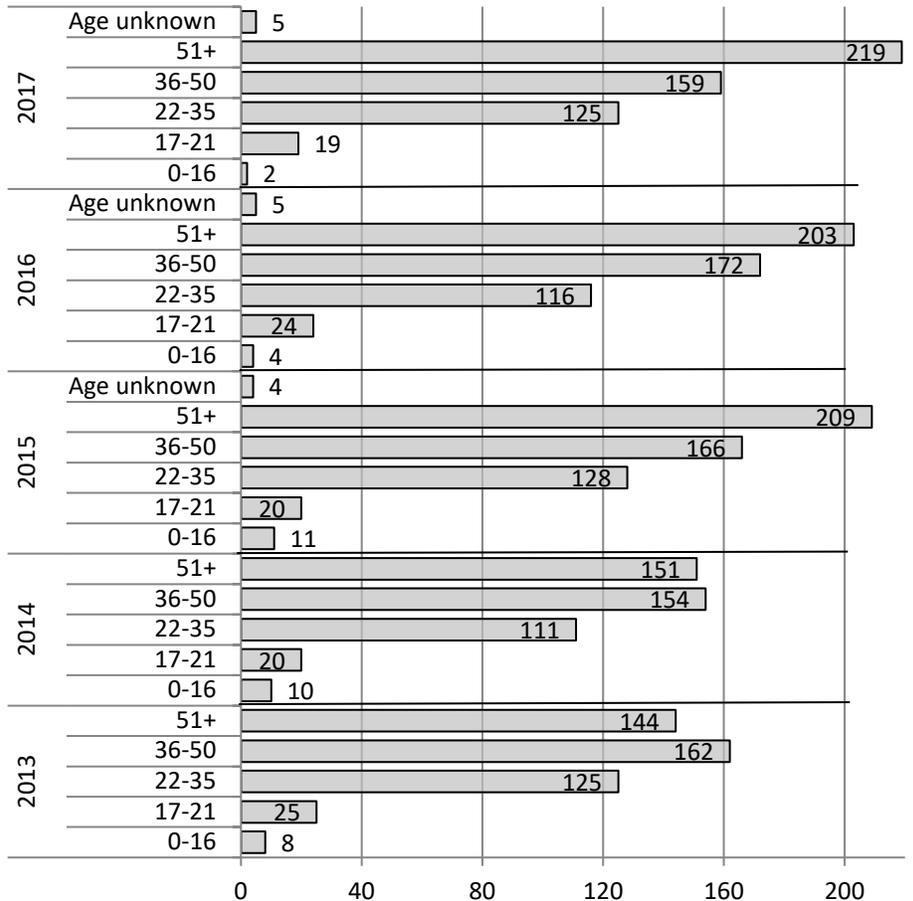


*2,437 total occupants and operators

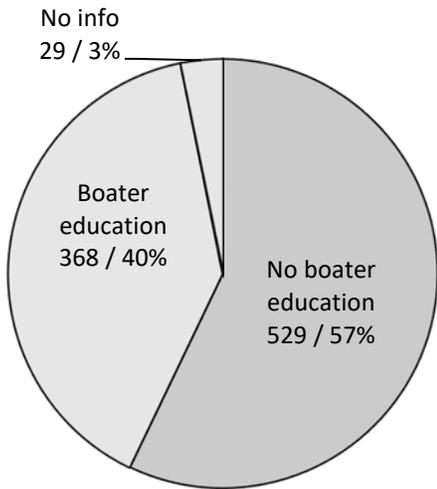
OPERATOR/OCCUPANT PFD USE



OPERATOR BY AGE WITH NO BOATER EDUCATION



BOAT OPERATOR EDUCATION

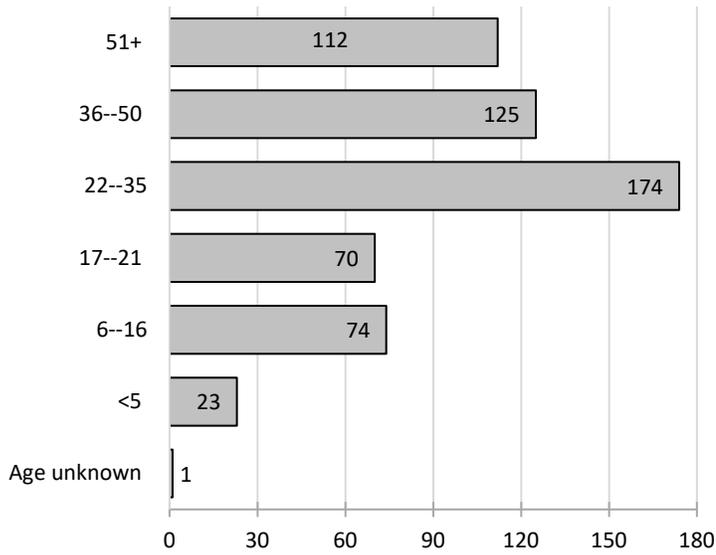


*926 operators, 29 were unknown due to hit and run accidents

*Five operators did not provide date of birth (DOB)

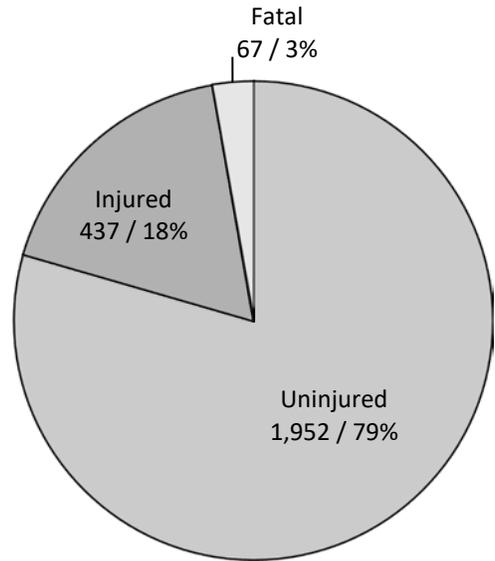
2017 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

PFD WEAR BY AGE



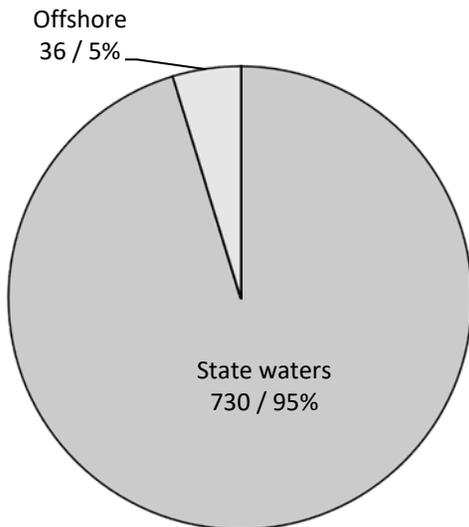
*579 of 2,437 operators/occupants were wearing a PFD at time of the accident. One person did not provide an age

VICTIM STATISTICS



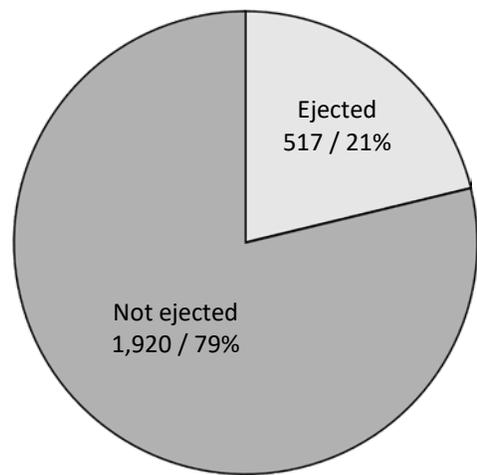
*2,456 persons involved in vessel accidents
2,437 operators/occupants and 19 swimmers

STATE WATERS VS. OFFSHORE WATERS (ACCIDENTS)



*Offshore is defined as the edge of the Gulfstream or three miles from shore, whichever is greater, in the Atlantic and more than nine miles out in the Gulf of Mexico

VICTIM STATISTICS (EJECTED)



*2,437 total operators and occupants

Boating Fatalities



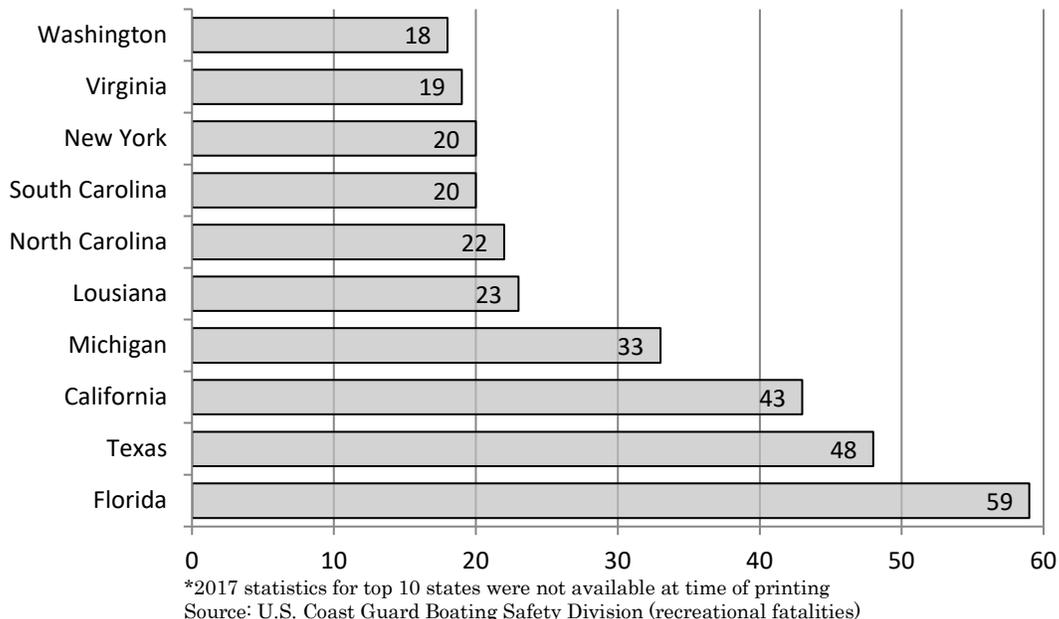
Boating Fatalities photo detail

Cover Photos: (Courtesy of FWC)

On January 20, 2017 at approximately 6:00 pm, two vessels were operating on Lake Istokpoga in Highlands County. A Gambler bass boat collided with a 15-foot-Key Largo boat. The Gambler was heading east and the Key Largo was heading north, in the same general location. Both vessels were being operated toward one another approximately 1/4 mile from shore. The Gambler's bow struck the Key Largo's port beam and ramped up and over the port side of the Key Largo. The operator and occupant of the Key Largo were both struck by the Gambler resulting in blunt force trauma and were subsequently ejected. The Gambler crossed over top of the Key Largo. The operator and passenger of the Gambler were both ejected, resulting in minor injuries.

2017 FATALITY DATA

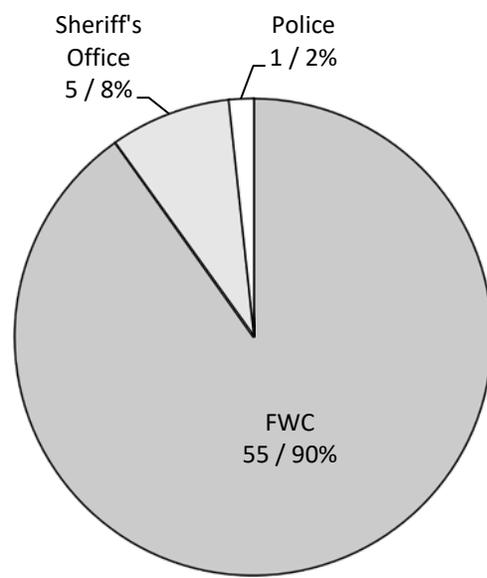
2016 FATALITIES - TOP TEN STATES



FLORIDA TOTAL FATALITIES RECORDED

2017	Registered vessels	944,162
	Fatality rate	7.1
	Number of fatalities	67
2016	Registered vessels	931,450
	Fatality rate	7.2
	Number of fatalities	67
2015	Registered vessels	915,713
	Fatality rate	6
	Number of fatalities	55
2014	Registered vessels	899,635
	Fatality rate	8.1
	Number of fatalities	73
2013	Registered vessels	896,632
	Fatality rate	6.9
	Number of fatalities	62

INVESTIGATING AGENCY

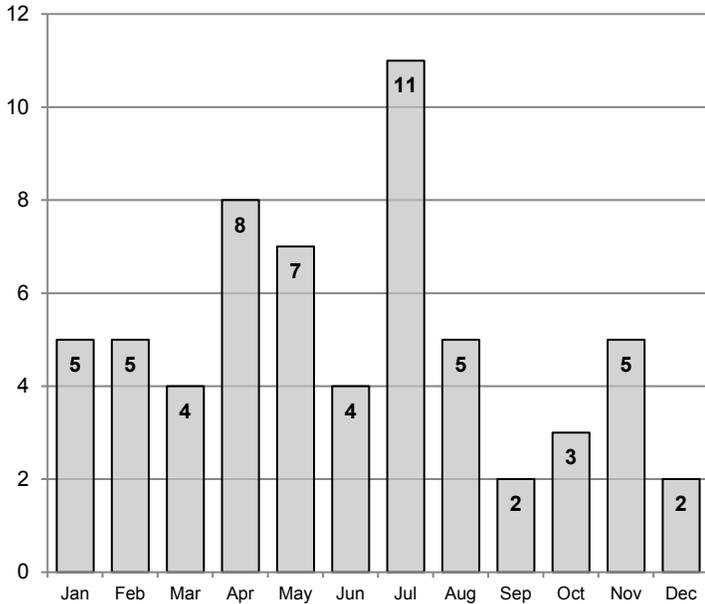


*61 fatal accidents

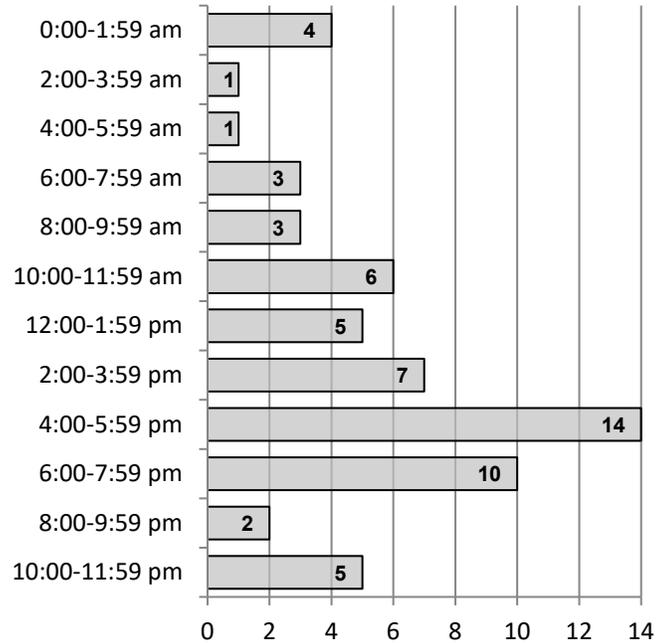
*Fatality Rate – Number of fatalities per 100,000 registered vessels

2017 FATALITY DATA

FATAL ACCIDENTS BY MONTH



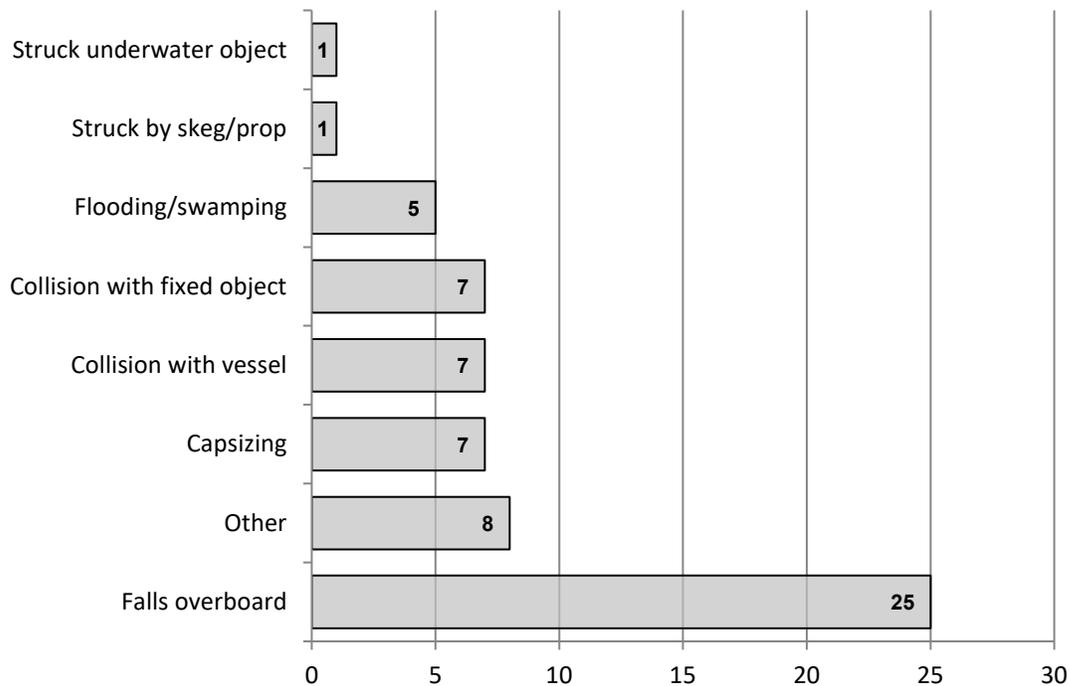
TIME OF DAY



*61 fatal accidents involving 67 fatalities

Fatality data includes three missing persons where their disappearance is associated with a boating accident

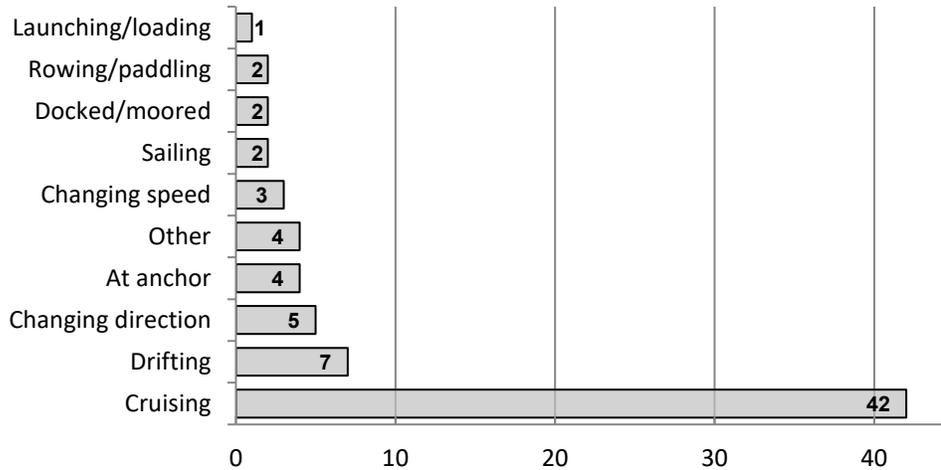
ACCIDENT TYPES



*61 fatal accidents involving 67 fatalities (Based on first harmful event)

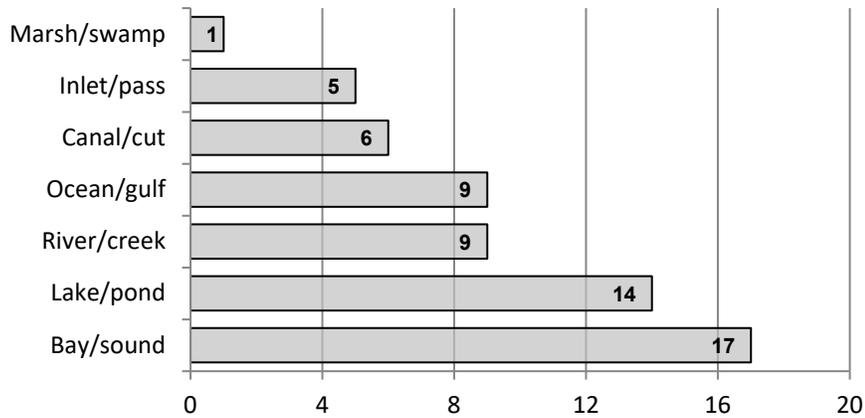
2017 FATALITY DATA

OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT

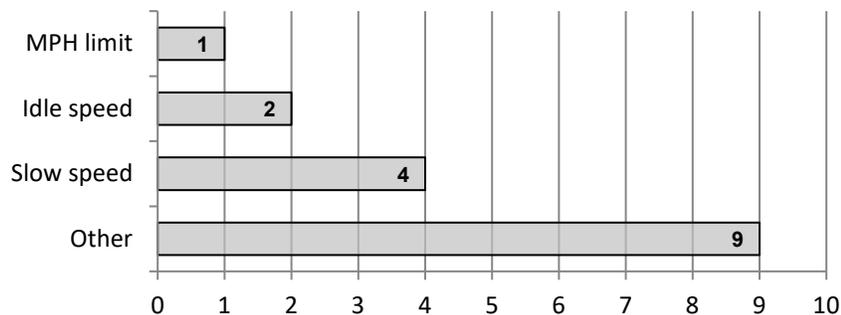


*72 vessels involved in 61 fatal accidents with 67 victims

ACCIDENT SITE LOCATION



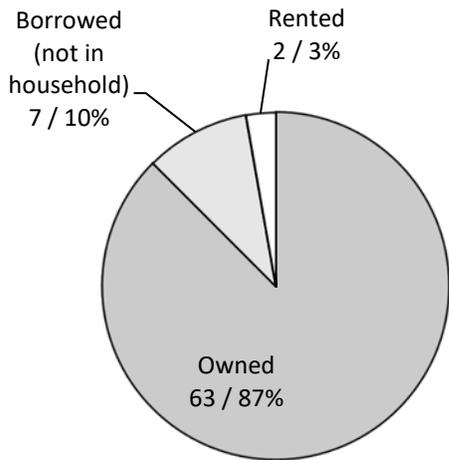
RESTRICTED AREA FATAL ACCIDENTS



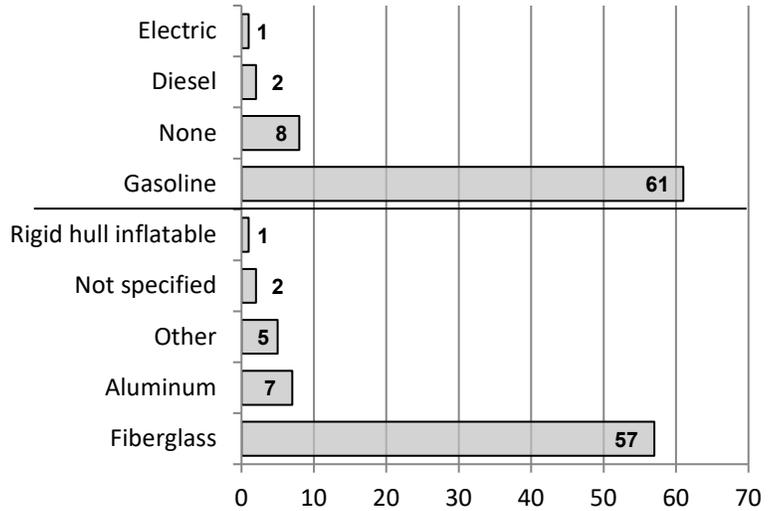
*16 of 61 fatal accidents occurred in restricted areas

2017 FATALITY DATA

VESSEL OWNERSHIP

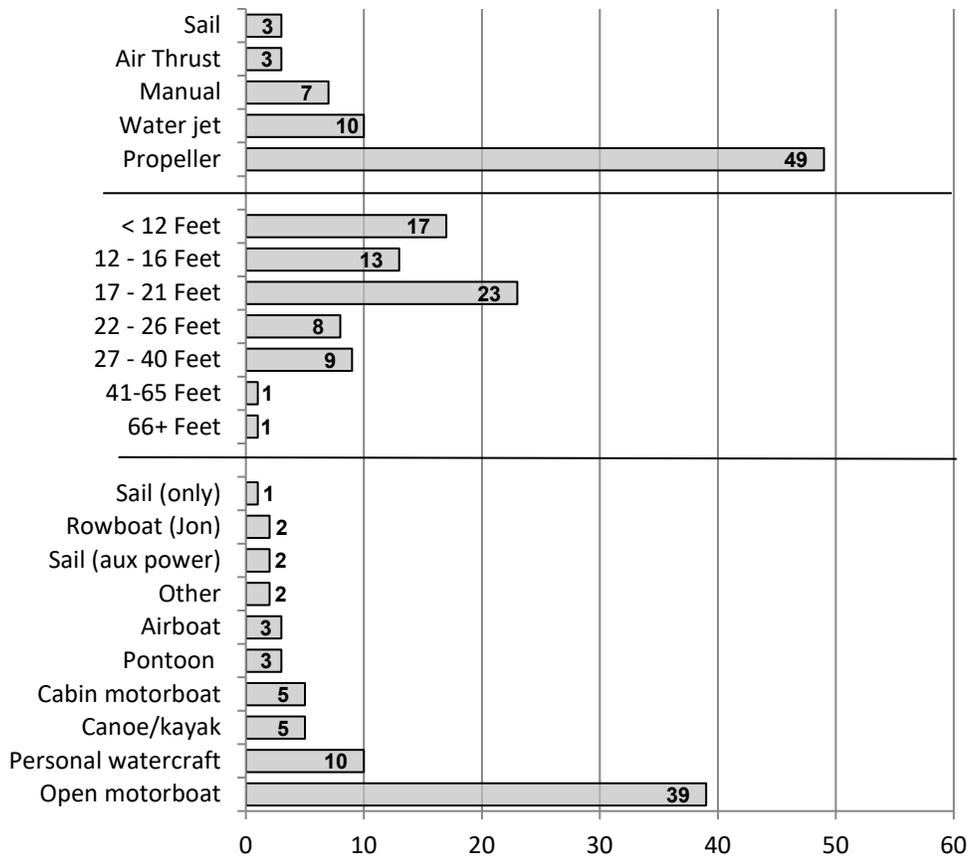


VESSEL FUEL & HULL TYPE



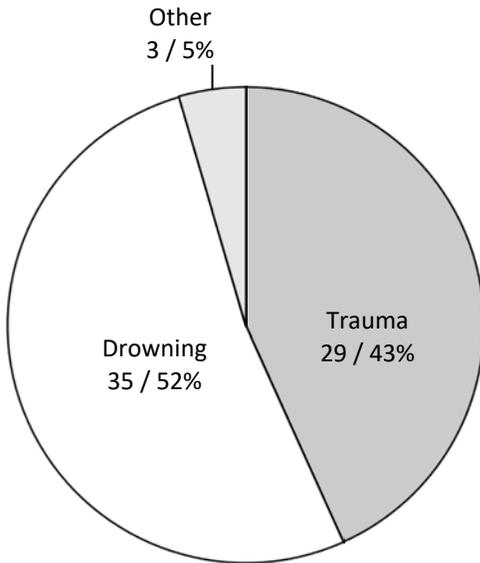
*67 total fatalities involving 72 vessels

VESSEL PROPULSION, LENGTH & TYPE



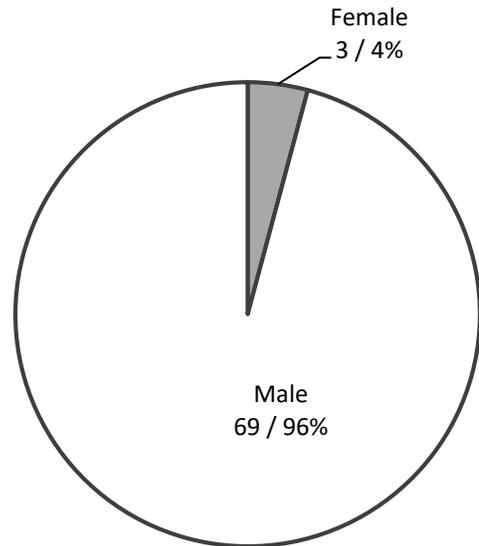
2017 FATALITY DATA

PRIMARY CAUSE OF DEATH



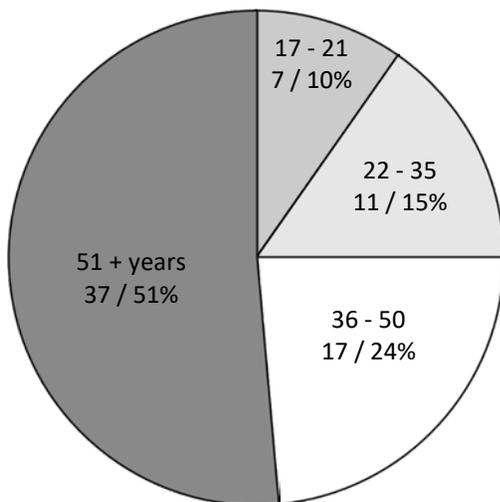
*67 fatalities, "Other" category includes three missing where cause of death is unknown

OPERATOR GENDER

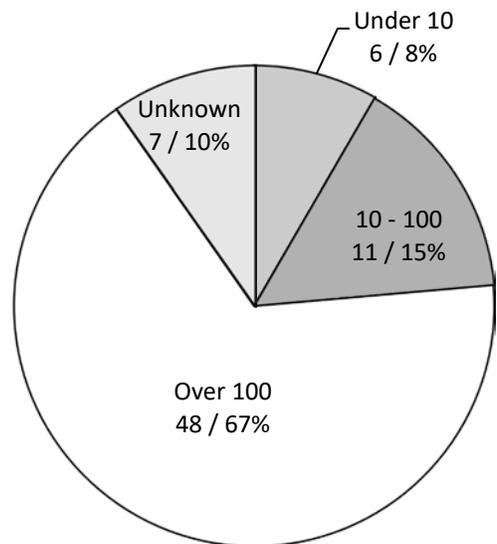


*72 operators

OPERATOR AGE (IN YEARS)



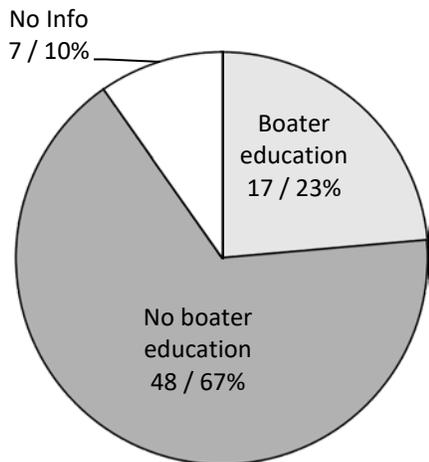
OPERATOR EXPERIENCE (IN HOURS)



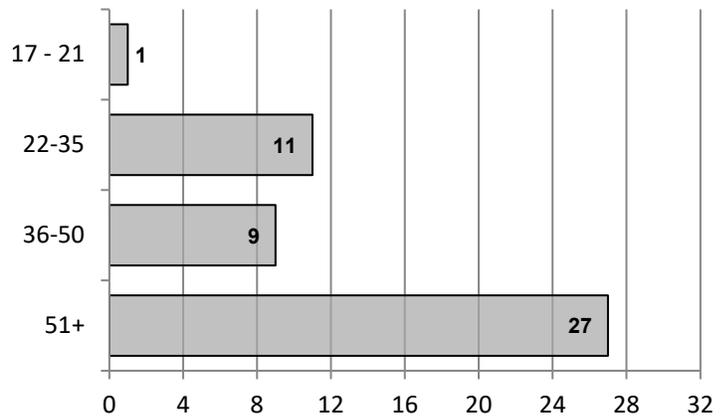
2017 FATALITY DATA

On October 15 2017, a 17-foot-motorboat collided with a PWC on Lake Louise after sunset. The motorboat and the PWC approached each other as they rounded a bend in the shoreline. The operator of the motorboat was unaware of the PWC until they were very close. The motorboat took evasive action by making a hard right turn. The PWC appeared to turn to its left, which put them back on a collision course. The motorboat turned back left putting his vessel perpendicular to the PWC. The motorboat operator said it appeared as though the PWC was now headed back towards him so he accelerated to try and avoid collision. The PWC struck the motorboat on the starboard side. Both the operator and occupant of the PWC were ejected from the vessel. The PWC operator, a 38-year-old male, was later pronounced deceased at the hospital.

OPERATOR EDUCATION

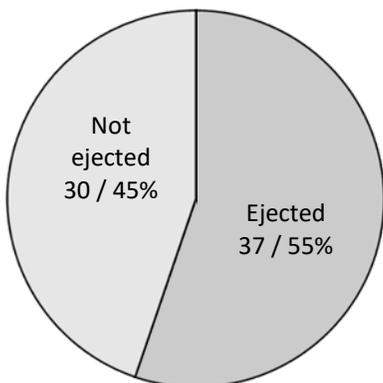


OPERATORS BY AGE WITHOUT FORMAL BOATER EDUCATION

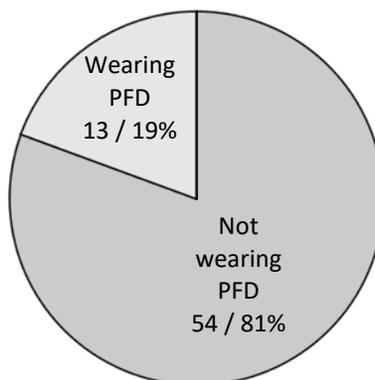


*48 operators did not have any formal boater education

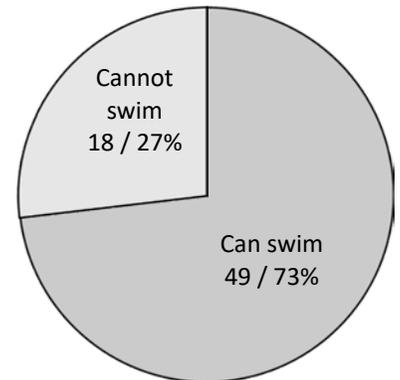
VICTIM STATISTICS (EJECTED)



VICTIM STATISTICS (WEARING PFD)



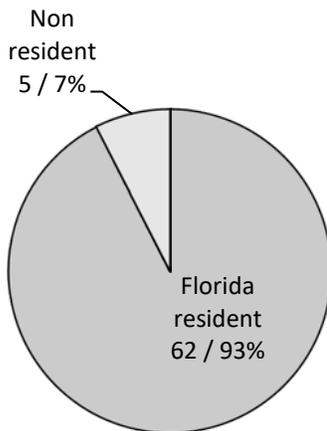
VICTIM STATISTICS (SWIMMING ABILITY)



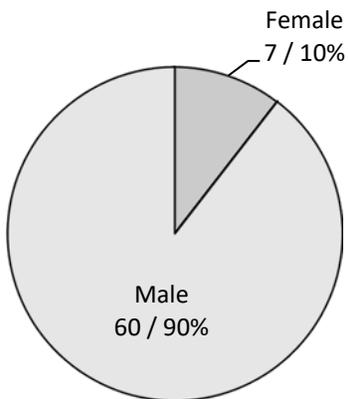
*61 fatal accidents involving 67 victims

2017 FATALITY DATA

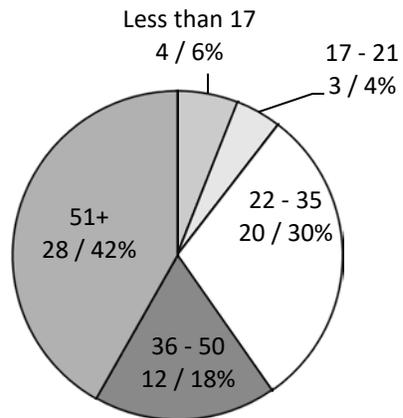
VICTIM RESIDENCY



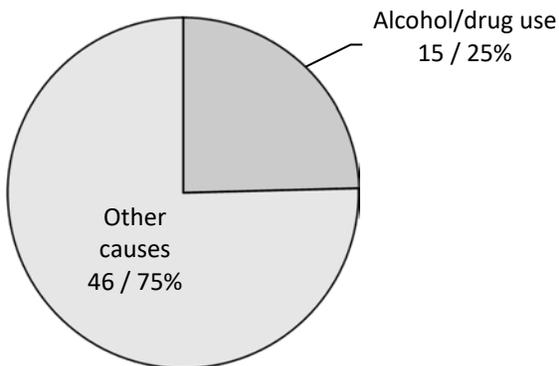
VICTIM GENDER



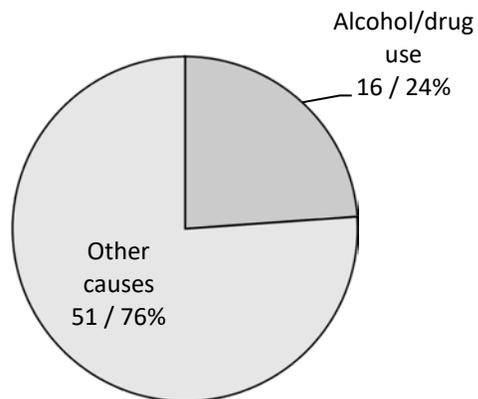
VICTIM AGE



ALCOHOL/DRUG RELATED ACCIDENTS



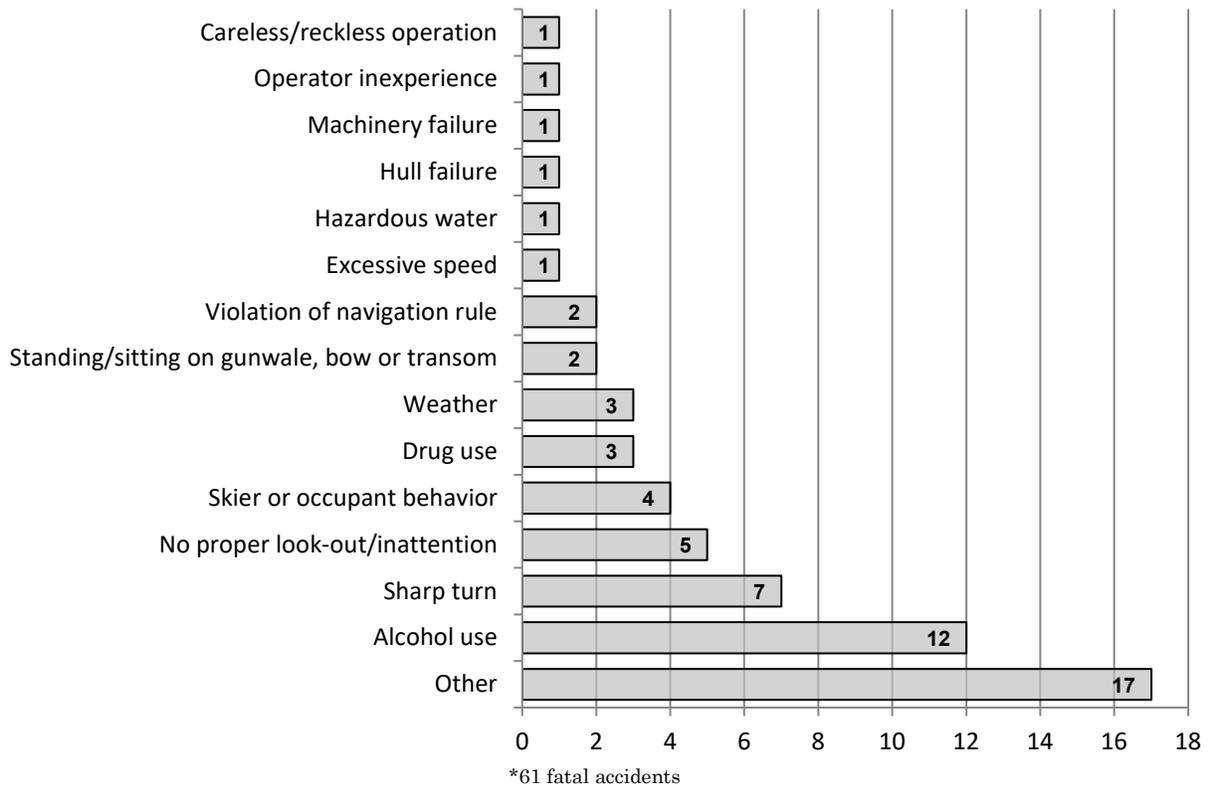
ALCOHOL/DRUG RELATED VICTIMS



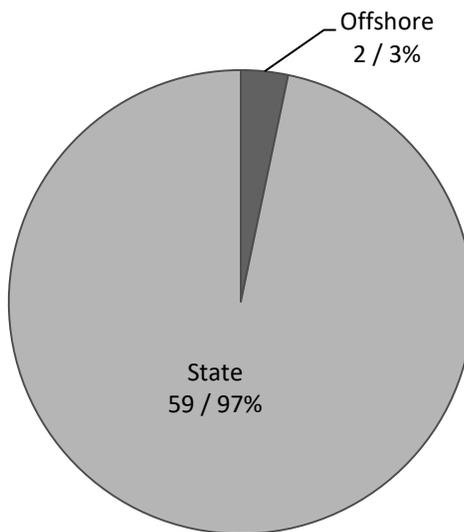
*61 accidents involving 67 fatalities, three were swimmers
(Alcohol/drug related refers to any accidents in which alcohol or drug use may have been a contributing factor, whether or not legally impaired)

2017 FATALITY DATA

PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT BY REVIEWING AUTHORITY

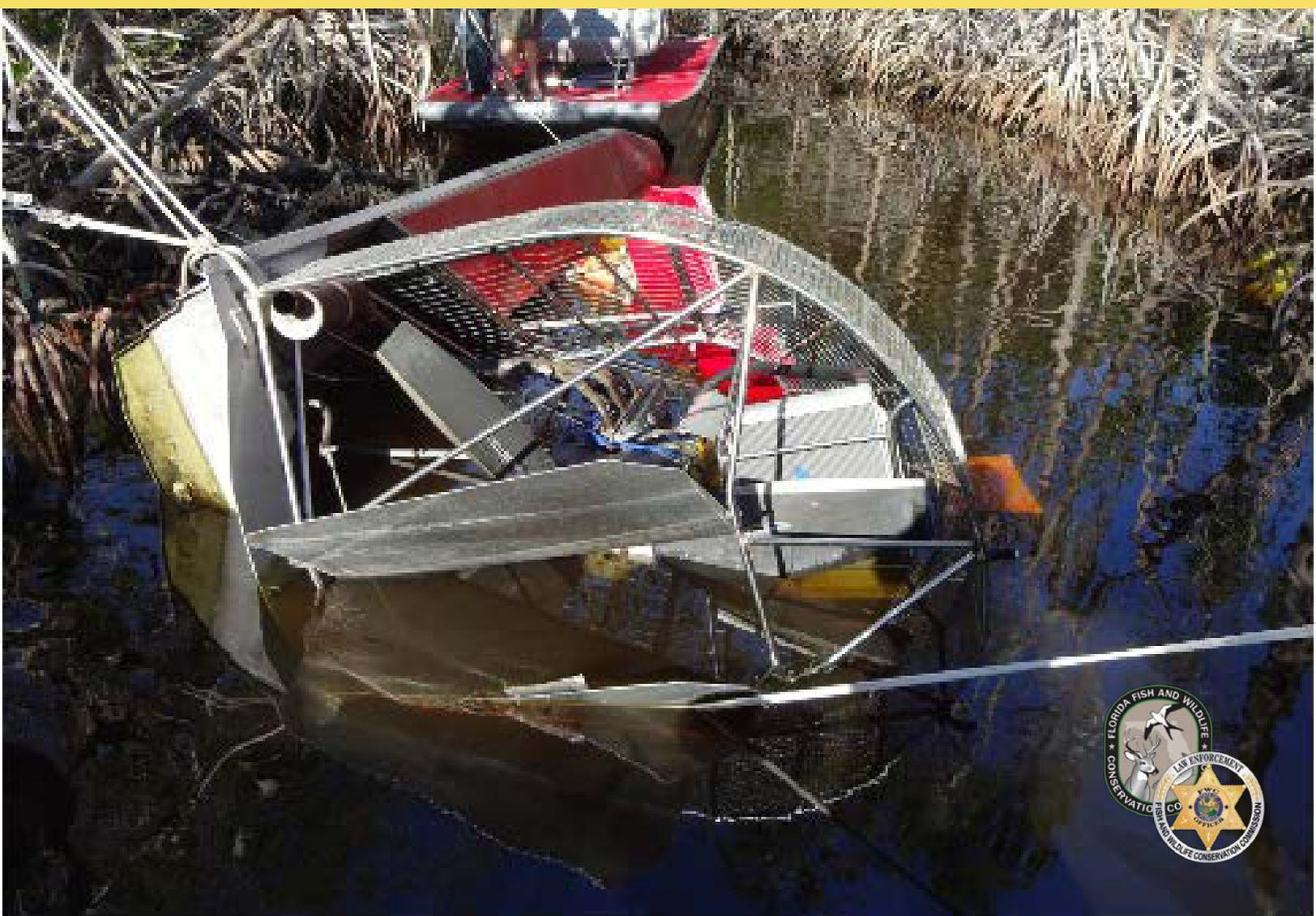


STATE WATERS VS. OFFSHORE WATERS



*Offshore defined as the edge of the Gulf Stream or three miles from shore, whichever is greater, in the Atlantic and more than nine miles out in the Gulf

Boating Injuries



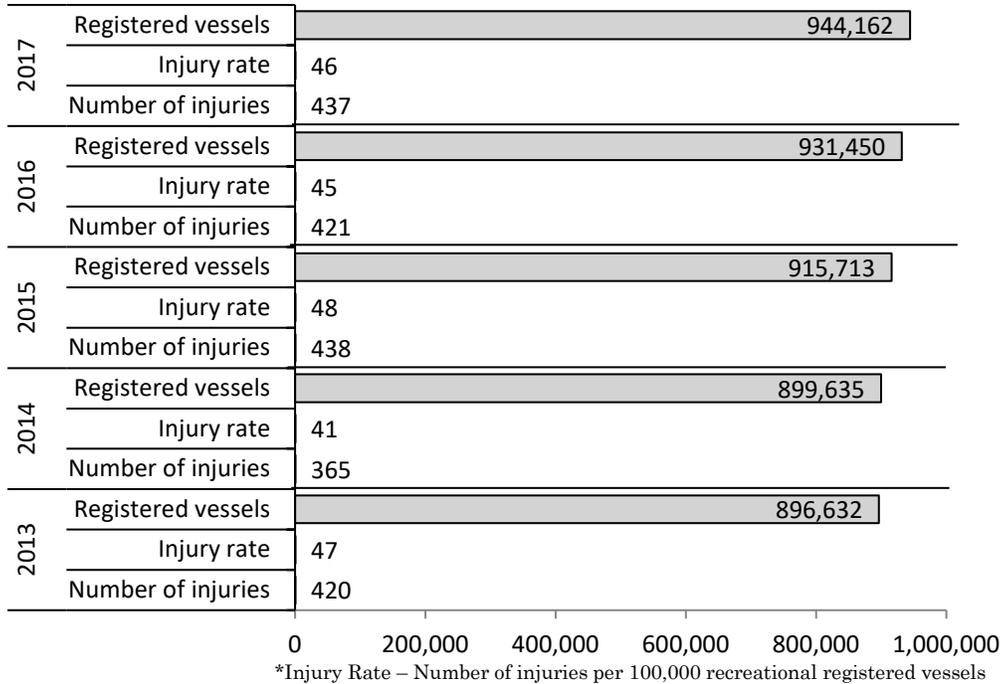
Boating Injuries photo detail

Cover Photo: (Courtesy of FWC)

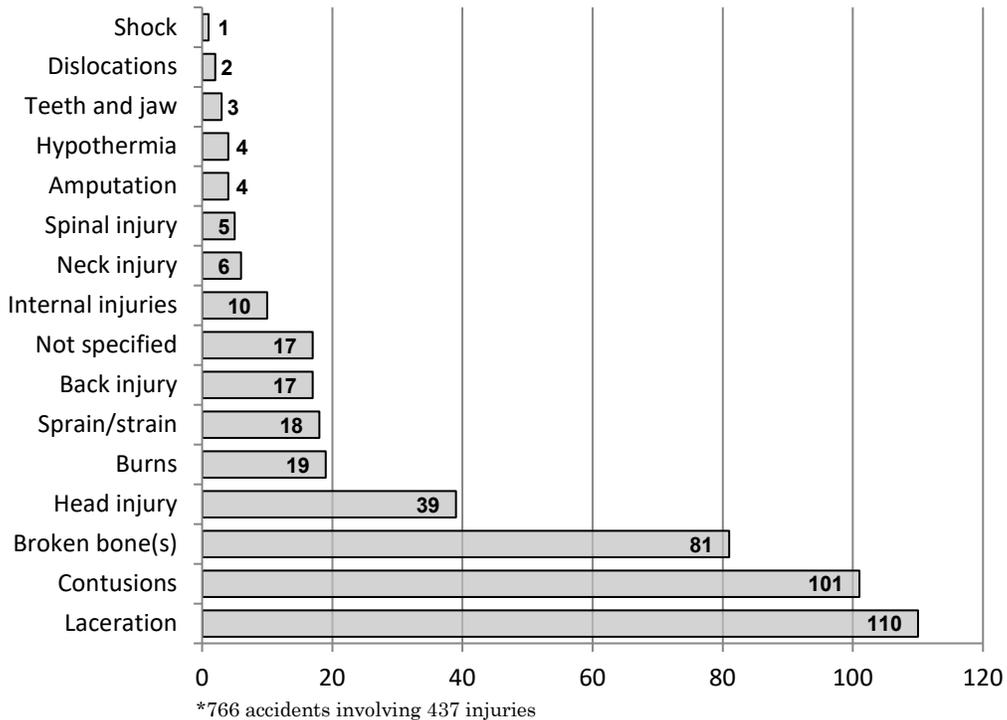
SB17-15568: On Tuesday, December 12, 2017, at approximately 1:50 pm, a boating allision occurred in Panther Creek in Collier County. An 18-foot-Alumitech airboat was heading Northwest in Panther Creek at a high rate of speed when the vessel struck a tree on the port side of the vessel's cage causing the operator to lose control of the vessel. The vessel came to rest 28 yards up the creek after the port bow ran up onto mangrove roots and capsized, ejecting all seven occupants into the creek. Four persons were injured as a result of the accident.

2017 INJURY DATA

TOTAL INJURIES RECORDED 2013-2017

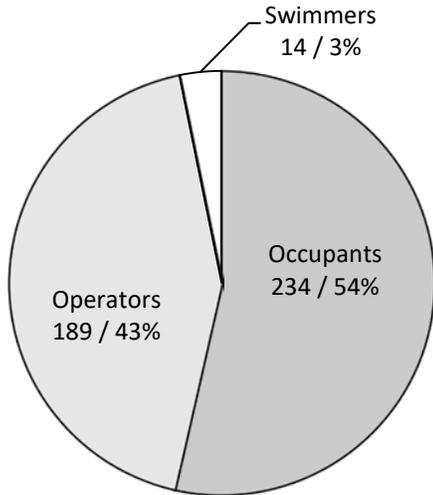


TYPES OF INJURY



2017 INJURY DATA

VICTIM STATISTICS (INJURED)

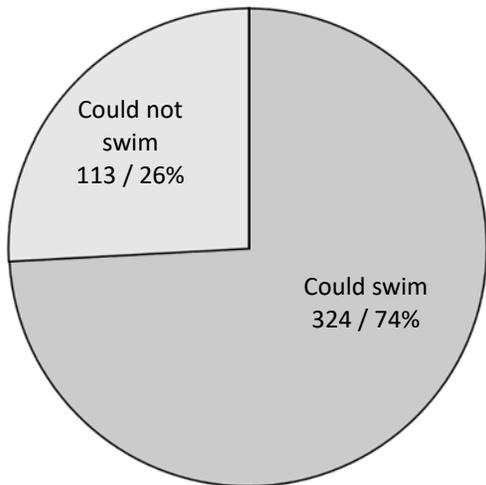


*766 accidents involving 437 injured

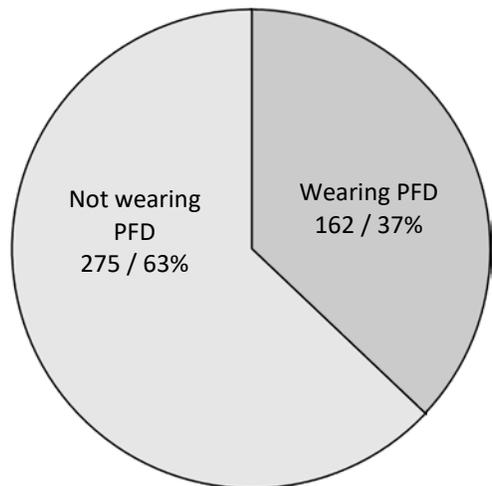
On August 15 2017, a 21-foot-motorboat, operated by 30-year-old male, was headed into Tavernier Creek from the bayside. There were three additional occupants in the motorboat.

The motorboat entered Tavernier Creek on plane from the bayside and struck the mangroves ejecting all persons onboard. All four men onboard suffered minor injuries (contusions, lacerations, and abrasions). The combination of speed and engine angle compromised the vessels ability to steer properly. While attempting to make a sharp left turn to follow the creek, the vessel lost grip and ultimately impacted the mangroves.

VICTIM STATISTICS (SWIMMING ABILITY)



VICTIM STATISTICS (PFD USE)



Personal Watercraft Accidents



Personal Watercraft Accidents photo detail

Cover Photos: (Courtesy of FWC)

NC17-4381: On June 24, 2017, a PWC was traveling east on Pottsburg Creek when it struck a residential dock. The homeowners, hearing the collision, looked out at the dock and observed the PWC drifting in the creek and the operator floating face down in the water. The homeowners called 911 while the operator was being recovered by a family member on a separate PWC. The injured operator was transported to the hospital and treated for serious injuries to his head, shoulders and water in his lungs.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

2017 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION AND ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY

County	Pleasure	Rental	Total	PWC Accidents	PWC Fatalities	PWC Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Alachua	771	2	773	0	0	0	\$0		0
Baker	220	0	220	0	0	0	\$0		0
Bay	1,995	303	2,298	5	0	6	\$16,950	8	1:460
Bradford	237	1	238	0	0	0	\$0		0
Brevard	3,579	38	3,617	2	0	3	\$8,000	17	1:1,809
Broward	8,930	141	9,071	8	0	8	\$16,500	7	1:1,134
Calhoun	49	0	49	0	0	0	\$0		0
Charlotte	1,736	38	1,774	2	0	2	\$4,200	20	1:887
Citrus	996	5	1,001	0	0	0	0		0
Clay	1,685	14	1,699	3	0	3	\$1,400	13	1:566
Collier	3,216	333	3,549	5	0	4	\$15,600	9	1:709
Columbia	292	1	293	0	0	0	\$0		0
Desoto	171	4	175	0	0	0	\$0		0
Dixie	66	0	66	0	0	0	\$0		0
Duval	4,055	29	4,084	2	0	1	\$17,800	14	1:2,042
Escambia	1,782	49	1,831	2	0	1	\$2,000	21	1:916
Flagler	795	10	805	0	0	0	\$0		0
Franklin	146	6	152	1	0	1	\$2,000	28	1:152
Gadsden	72	0	72	0	0	0	\$0		0
Gilchrist	102	0	102	0	0	0	\$0		0
Glades	31	0	31	0	0	0	\$0		0
Gulf	119	8	127	1	1	1	\$0	30	1:127
Hamilton	42	0	42	0	0	0	\$0		0
Hardee	108	4	112	0	0	0	\$0		0
Hendry	189	0	189	0	0	0	\$0		0
Hernando	1,184	8	1,192	3	0	1	\$8,000	12	1:397
Highlands	1,142	2	1,144	1	0	2	\$1,000	29	1:1,144
Hillsborough	6,473	68	6,541	10	2	8	\$40,500	5	1:654
Holmes	62	0	62	0	0	0	\$0		0
Indian River	809	8	817	0	0	0	\$0		0
Jackson	247	3	250	0	0	0	\$0		0
Jefferson	41	0	41	0	0	0	\$0		0
Lafayette	47	0	47	0	0	0	\$0		0
Lake	2,400	11	2,411	4	0	5	\$15,500	10	1:603
Lee	4,738	260	4,998	8	1	6	\$30,300	6	1:625
Leon	699	5	704	0	0	0	\$0		0
Levy	199	0	199	0	0	0	\$0		0

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

2017 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION AND ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY

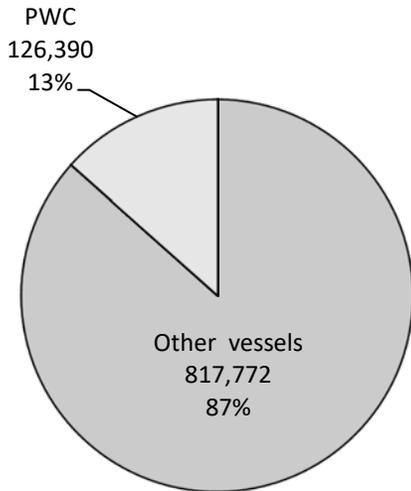
County	Pleasure	Rental	Total	PWC Accidents	PWC Fatalities	PWC Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Liberty	27	1	28	0	0	0	\$0		0
Madison	33	0	33	0	0	0	\$0		0
Manatee	2,524	93	2,617	2	0	0	\$10,000	16	1:1,309
Marion	1,893	16	1,909	1	0	0	\$7,200	22	1:1,909
Martin	1,582	36	1,618	0	0	0	\$0		0
Miami-Dade	14,479	610	15,089	21	4	19	\$44,350	2	1:719
Monroe	1,850	440	2,290	22	0	26	\$29,650	1	1:104
Nassau	646	8	654	0	0	0	\$0		0
Okaloosa	3,157	283	3,440	16	1	18	\$30,499	4	1:215
Okeechobee	186	0	186	0	0	0	\$0		0
Orange	7,027	62	7,089	2	1	4	\$14,000	15	1:3,545
Osceola	2,001	13	2,014	0	0	0	\$0		0
Palm Beach	6,184	63	6,247	2	0	3	\$5,600	19	1:3,124
Pasco	3,891	21	3,912	0	0	0	\$0		0
Pinellas	8,435	346	8,781	17	1	12	\$59,650	3	1:1,254
Polk	3,078	30	3,105	1	0	0	\$7,000	23	1:3,105
Putnam	465	1	466	0	0	0	\$0		0
Santa Rosa	1,992	105	2,097	1	0	1	\$4,000	26	1:2,097
Sarasota	2,267	154	2,421	4	0	3	\$11,300	11	1:605
Seminole	3,395	17	3,412	2	0	2	\$7,000	18	1:1,706
St. Johns	1,765	18	1,783	1	0	0	\$5,000	24	1:1,783
St. Lucie	1,367	5	1,372	1	0	0	\$4,100	25	1:1,372
Sumter	255	1	256	0	0	0	\$0		0
Suwannee	203	4	207	0	0	0	\$0		0
Taylor	77	0	77	0	0	0	\$0		0
Union	61	1	62	0	0	0	\$0		0
Volusia	2,671	85	2,756	1	0	1	\$2,750	27	1:2,756
Wakulla	160	0	160	0	0	0	\$0		0
Walton	638	22	660	0	0	0	\$0		0
Washington	136	1	137	0	0	0	\$0		0
DHSMV	715	21	735						
TOTAL	122,582	3,808	126,390	151	11	141	\$413,849		1:837

*Accident Rate = $\frac{\text{\# of Registered Vessels}}{\text{\# of Accidents}}$

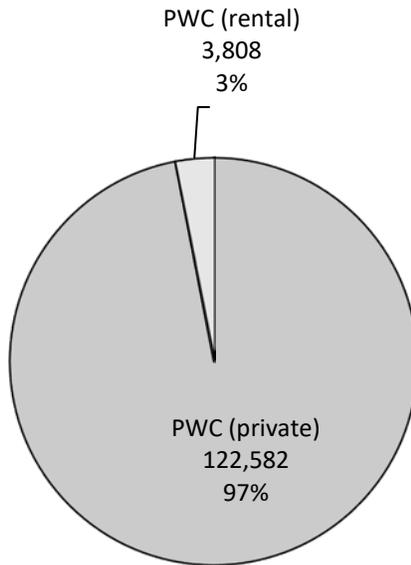
Those Counties in bold print represent the top ten counties for PWC boating accidents in 2017
DHSMV numbers represent registrations issued at the main office instead of at county level

2017 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

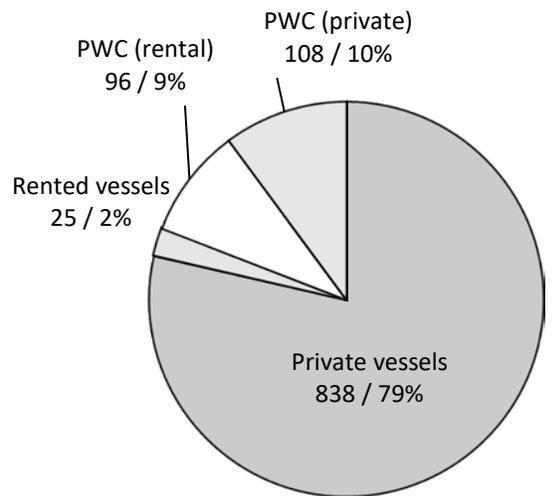
TOTAL REGISTERED PWC



PWC OWNERSHIP BY REGISTRATION

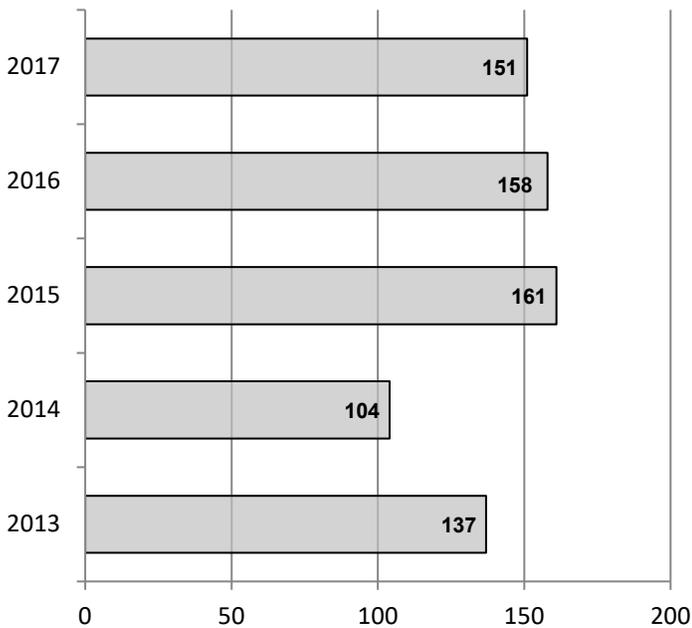


COMPARISON OF PWC TO VESSELS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS

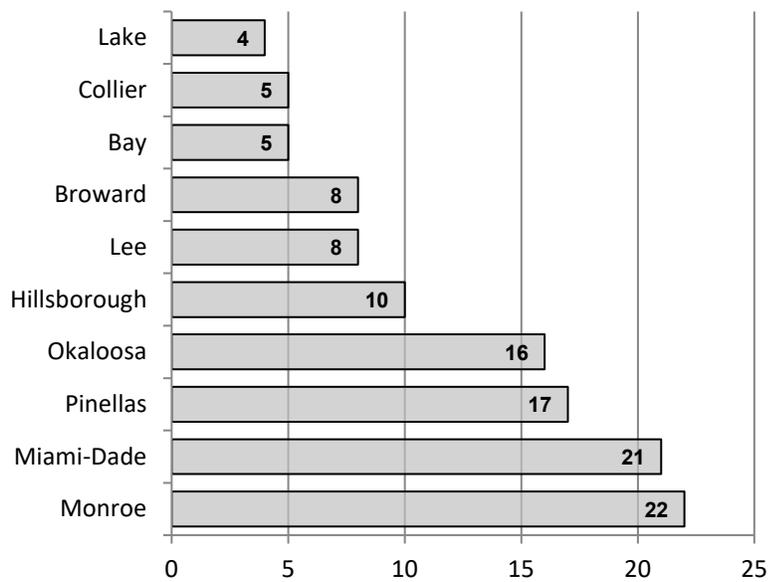


*1,067 vessels involved in accidents

PWC ACCIDENTS 2013-2017

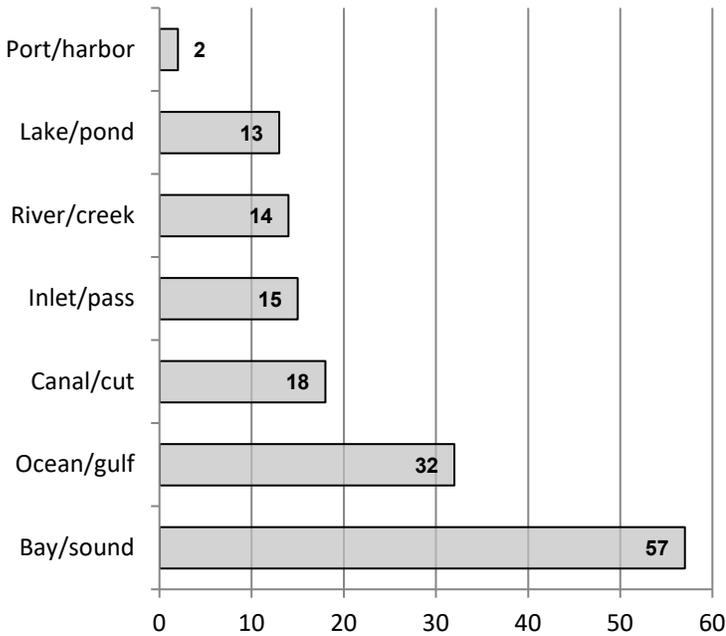


PWC ACCIDENTS TOP TEN COUNTIES

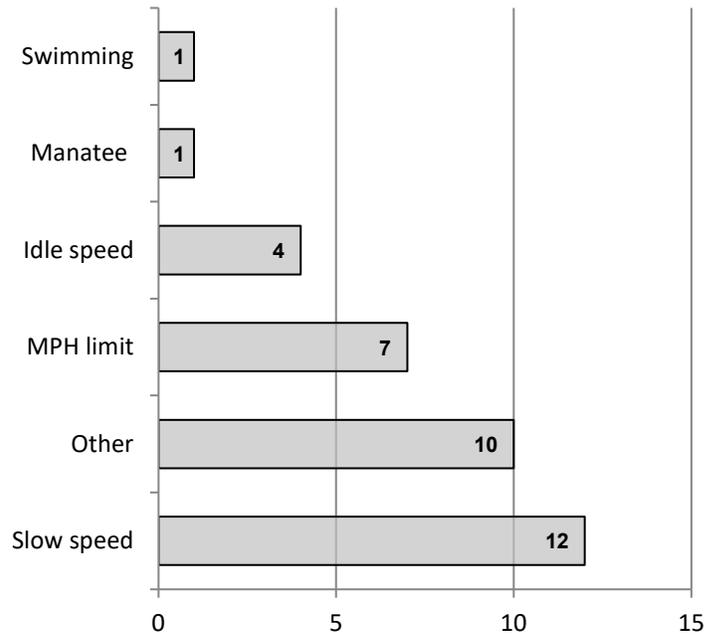


2017 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

ACCIDENT SITE LOCATION

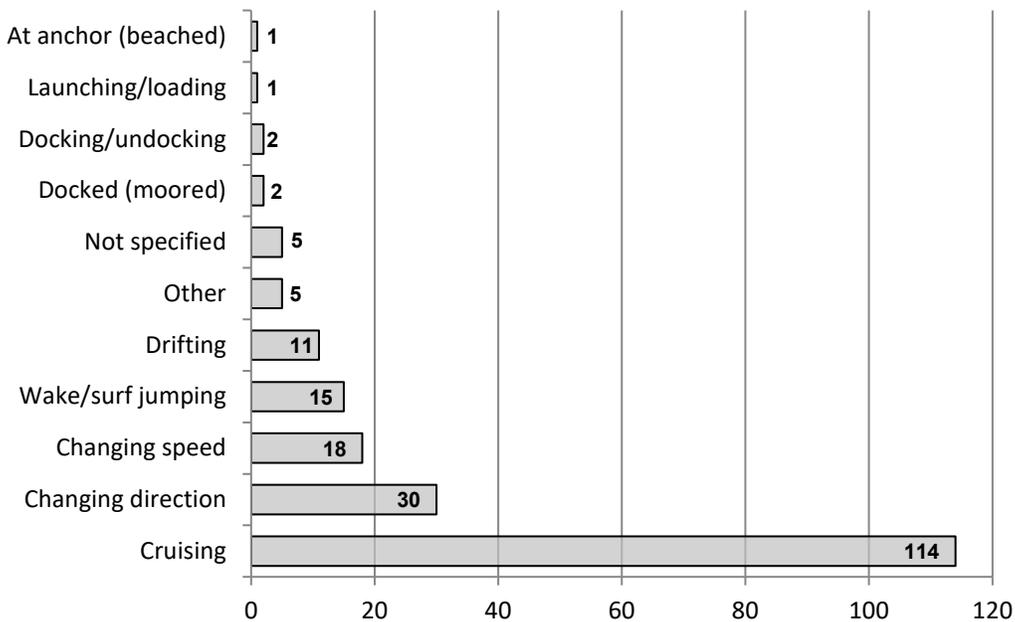


RESTRICTED AREA ACCIDENTS



*35 PWC accidents occurred within a restricted area

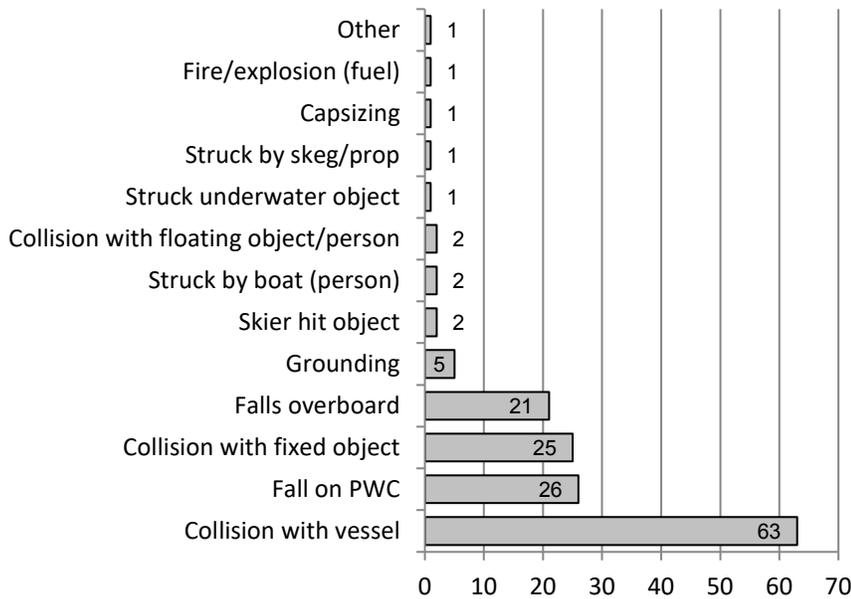
OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT



*204 PWC involved in 151 accidents

2017 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

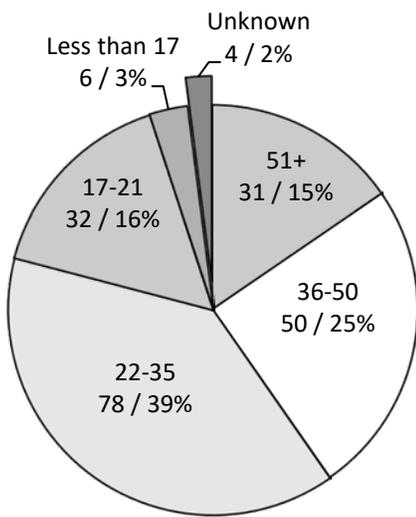
PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT



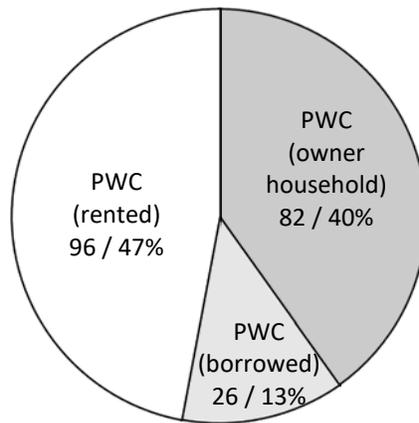
*151 PWC accidents
(Based on first harmful event as determined by the state reviewing authority)

On May 21 2017, a PWC being operated by a 25-year-old male, with one occupant onboard, was cruising close to Picnic Island when it collided with a 29-foot-motorboat. The operator and occupant of the PWC were ejected upon impact and received serious injuries from striking the vessel. One of the occupants of the vessel was also injured by the impact collision, falling inside the vessel and fracturing her wrist. The PWC operator had been consuming alcohol and showed signs of being impaired.

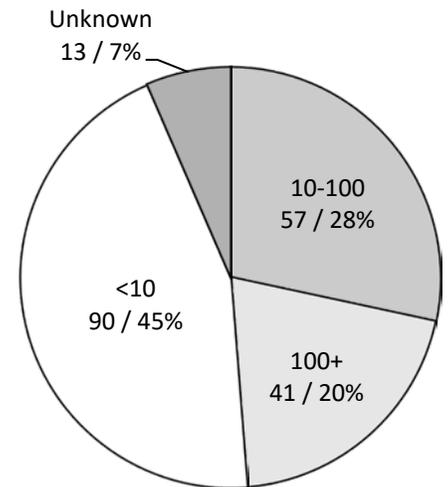
PWC OPERATOR AGE



PWC OWNERSHIP



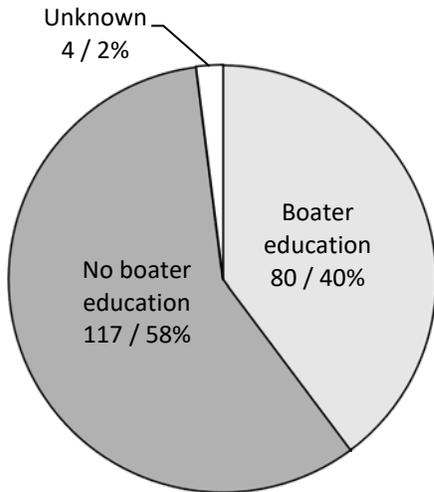
PWC OPERATOR EXPERIENCE (HOURS)



*151 PWC accidents involving 204 PWC and 201 operators
Operator information for four PWC are unknown due to hit and run accidents or no operators at time of accident

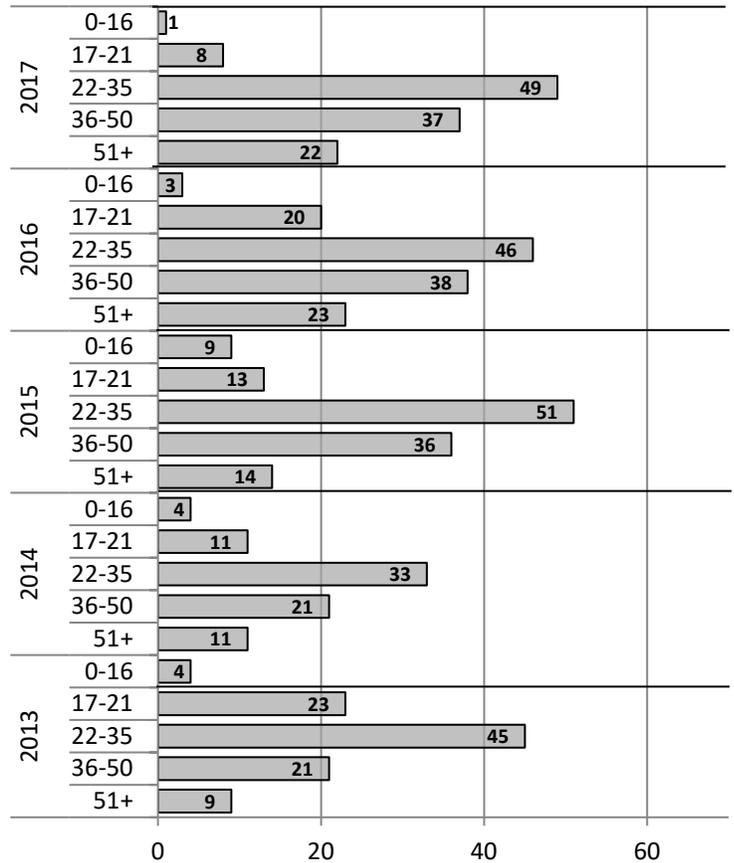
2017 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

PWC OPERATOR EDUCATION

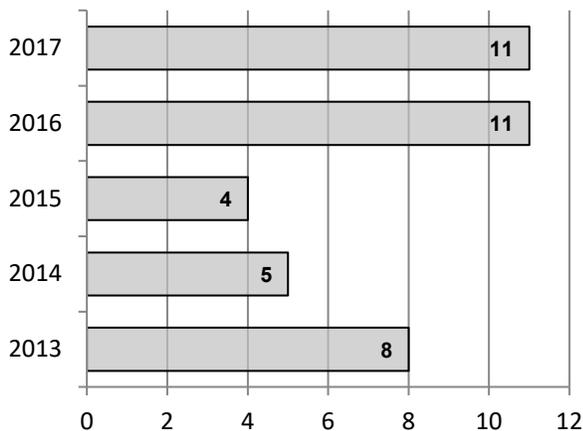


*151 accidents involving 201 operators

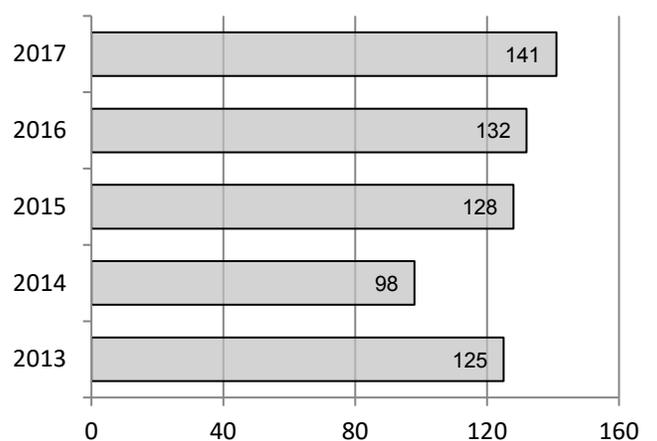
PWC OPERATORS BY AGE WITHOUT BOATER EDUCATION



PWC FATALITIES 2013-2017

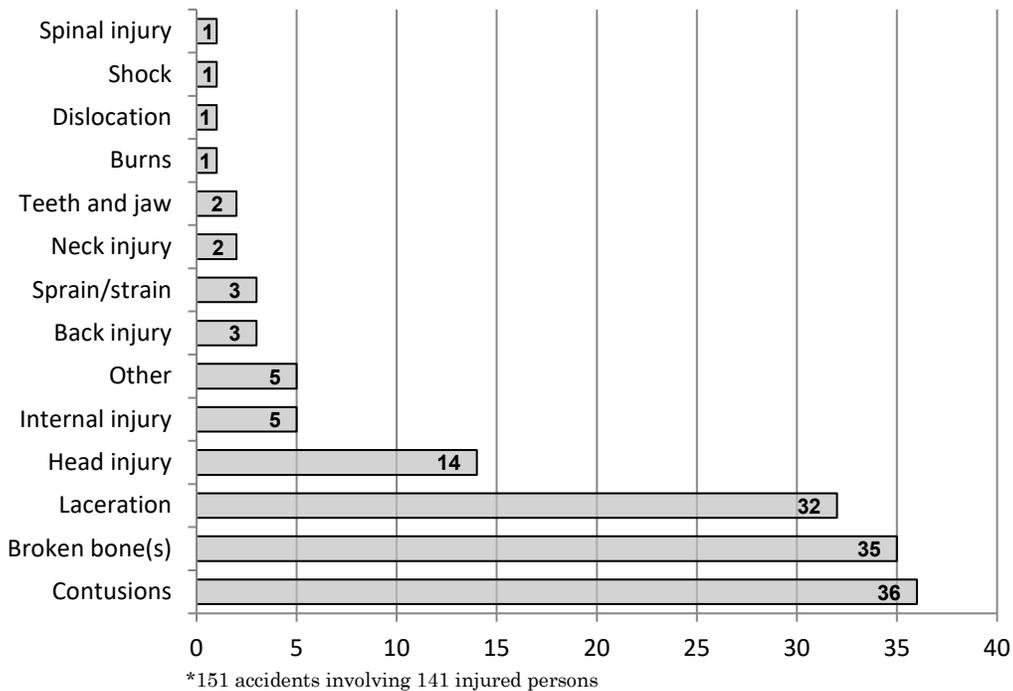


PWC INJURIES 2013-2017

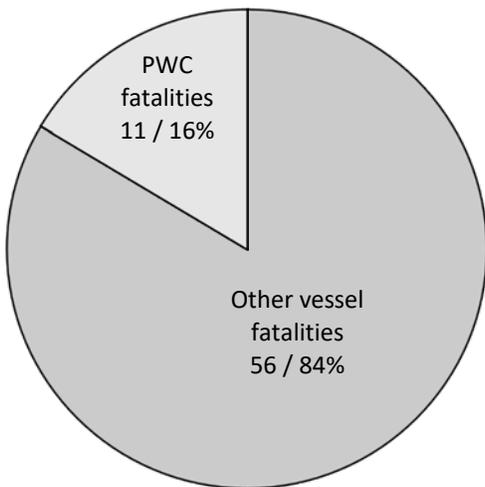


2017 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

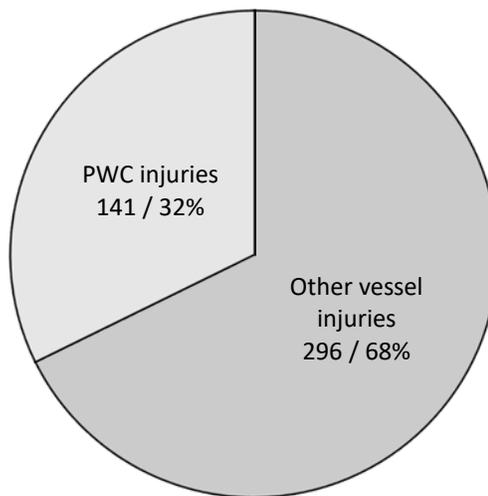
PRIMARY INJURY TYPES



COMPARISONS OF PWC FATALITIES

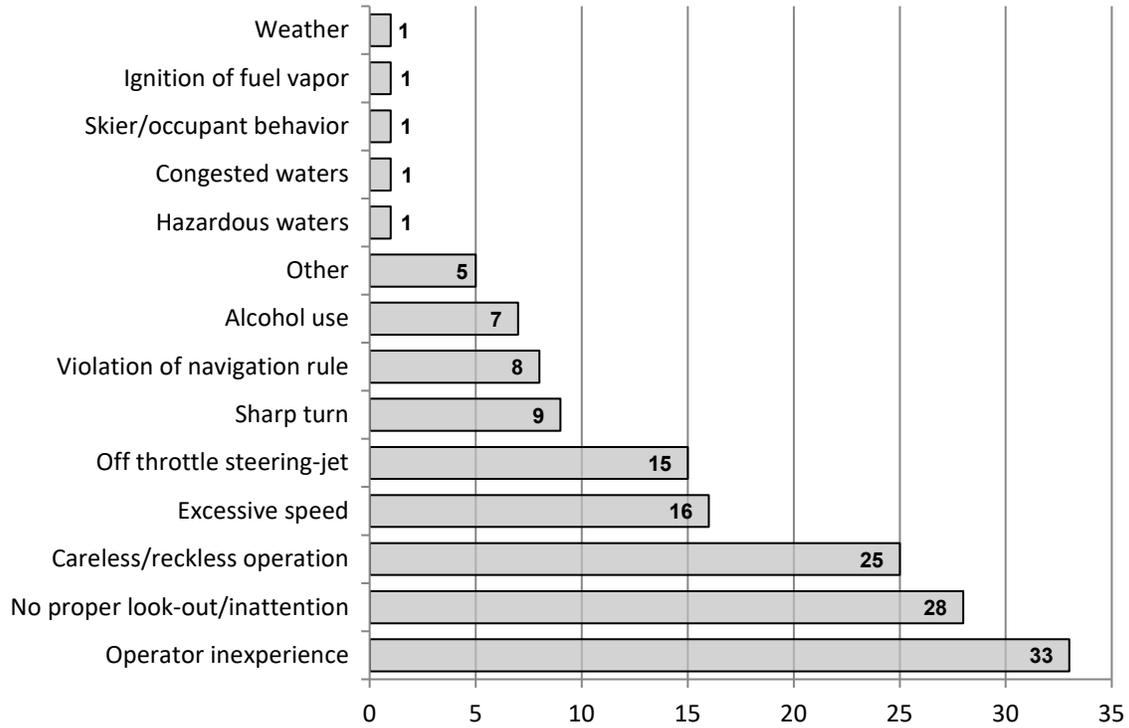


COMPARISONS OF PWC INJURIES

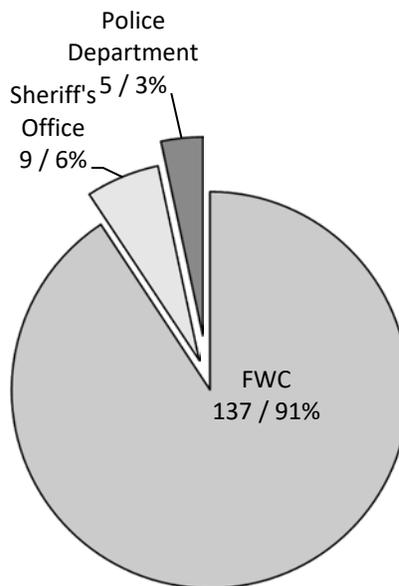


2017 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

PRIMARY CAUSE ASSESSED BY REVIEWING AUTHORITY



INVESTIGATING AGENCY



*151 PWC accidents

Boating Education Statistics



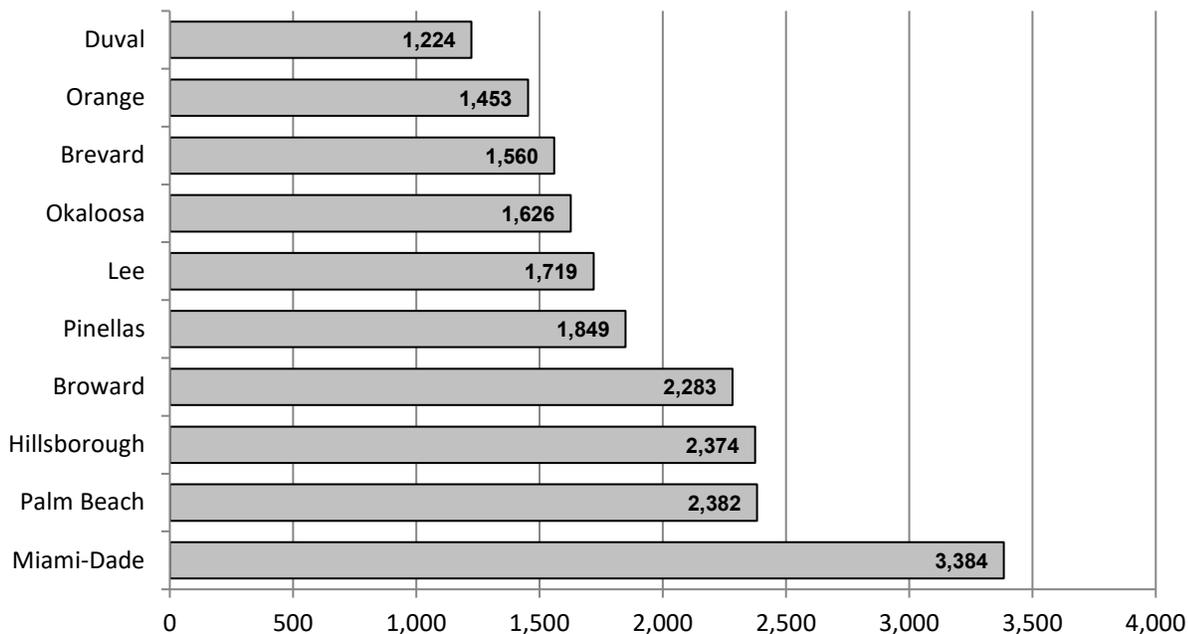
Boating Education Statistics photo detail

Cover Photos: (Courtesy of FWC)

Lt. Louis Hinds gave a boating safety and knot tying presentation to Girl Scouts in Manatee County.

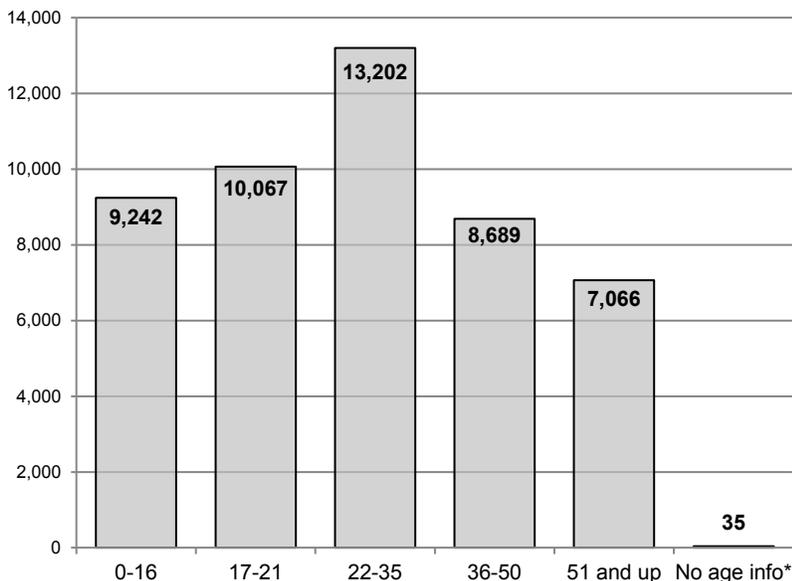
2017 BOATING EDUCATION

TOP TEN COUNTIES-BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION IDENTIFICATION (I.D.) CARDS ISSUED



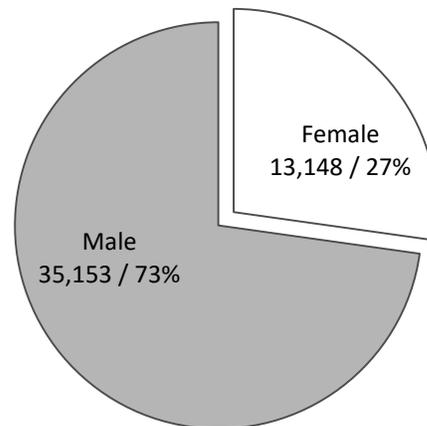
*48,301 cards issued in calendar year 2017 (does not include temporary certificates)
8,168 cards were issued to out-of-state residents

BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION I.D. CARD DISTRIBUTION BY AGE



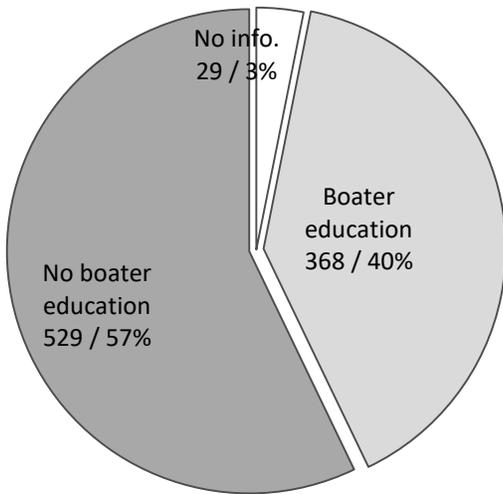
*48,301 new cards issued. An additional 1,049 cards issued as reprints for lost, damaged and change of information

I.D. CARD DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER

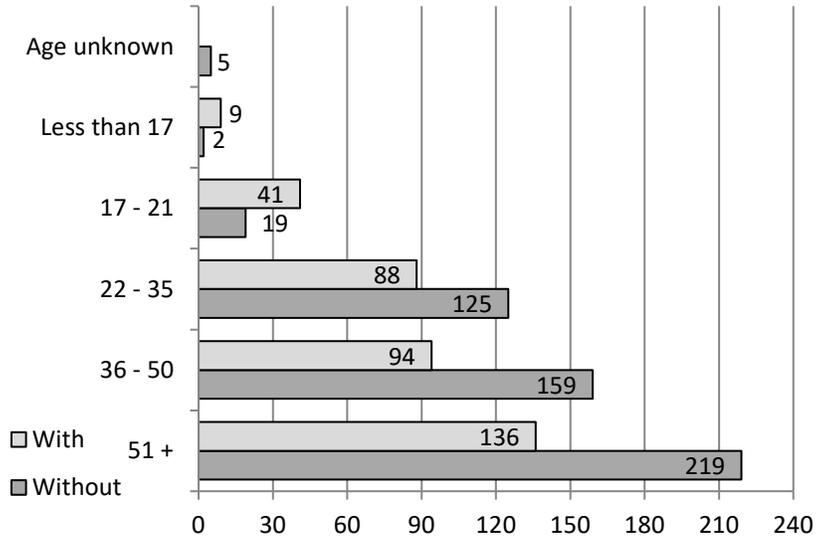


2017 BOATING EDUCATION

OPERATORS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS-EDUCATION/AGE

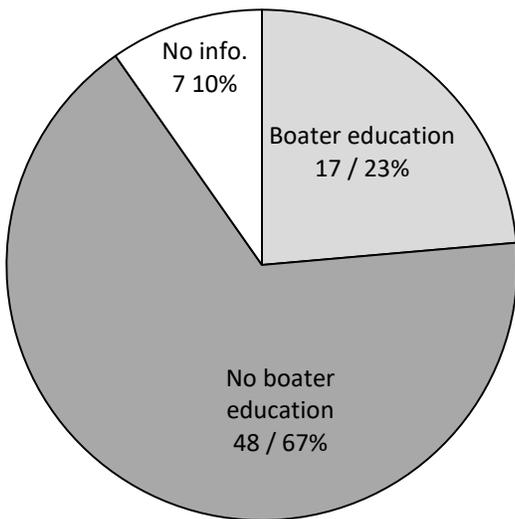


*926 operators

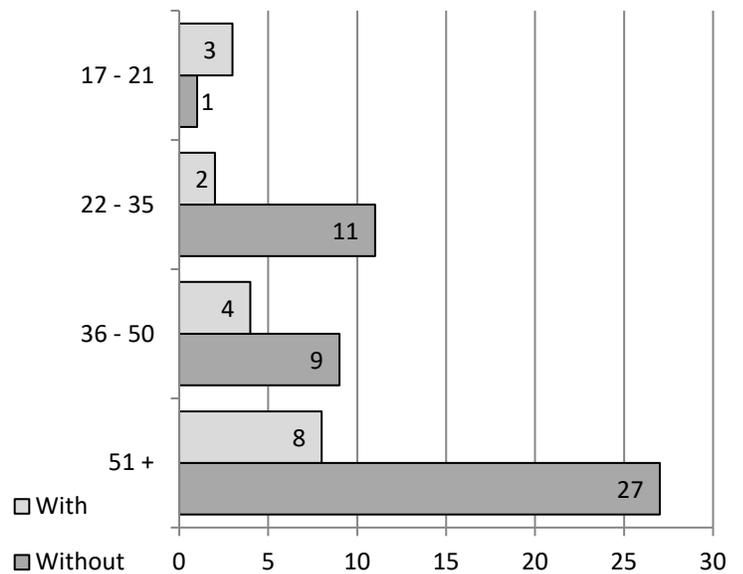


*926 operators, five did not provide date of birth
29 additional were unknown due to hit and run accidents or information was not entered, they are not included in this table

OPERATORS INVOLVED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS-EDUCATION/AGE



*72 operators



Violation Summary



Violation Summary photo detail

Top picture

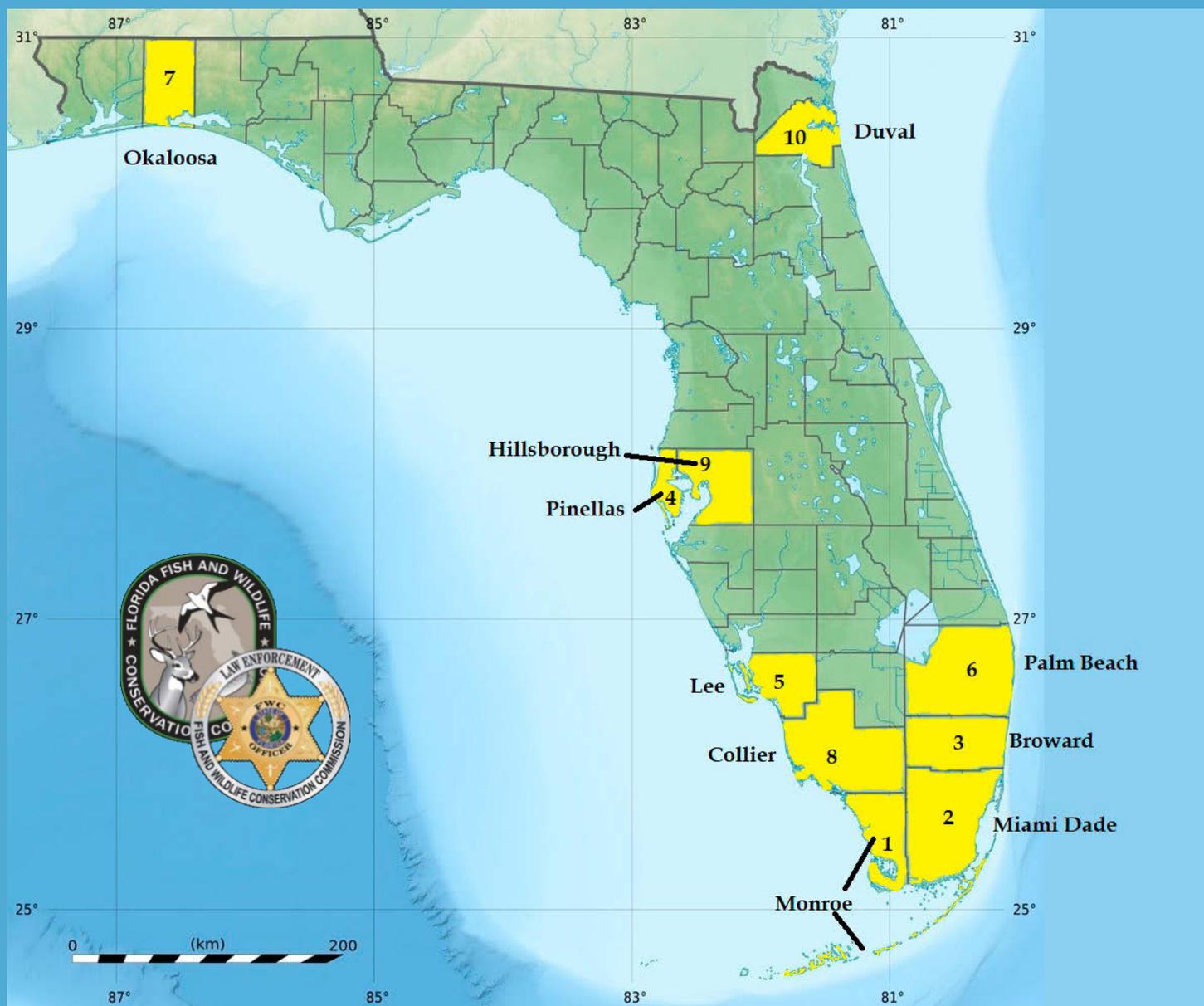
Cover Photos: (Courtesy of FWC)

Officers working on boating accident investigations.

VIOLATION SUMMARY

2017 UNIFORM BOATING CITATION SUMMARY				
CITATION	2017		2016	
	FWC	Other	FWC	Other
Aids to Navigation and Regulatory Markers Uniform waterway markers for safety and navigation Mooring to or damaging markers or buoys	5	1	13	11
Alcohol and Drugs Operation of a vessel under the influence of alcohol Operation of a vessel while impaired	374	14	267	13
Boating Restricted Areas Manatee protection rules Public safety rules Local ordinances	1,858	2,129	1,620	1,502
Boating Safety Education Boating safety education I.D. cards	550	553	455	285
Livery Operations Rental without proper safety equipment Rental without boater education Rental to persons under 18 years of age	68	38	73	9
Negligent Operation of a Vessel Reckless operation of a vessel Careless operation of a vessel Navigation rule violation resulting in an accident Navigation rule violation not resulting in an accident Failure to report an accident	431	132	420	173
Personal Watercraft Personal watercraft regulations	351	81	304	67
Skiing and Diving Skiing, aquaplaning and parasailing violations Dive flag violations	354	32	344	27
Registration and Numbering Operation of unregistered/unnumbered vessels Application, certificate, number or decal violation Special manufacturer and dealer numbers Violation relating to vessel titling Violation relating to Hull Identification Numbers	2,007	593	1,970	556
Safety Equipment and Regulations Equipment and lighting requirements	3,293	563	3,260	432
SUB TOTAL	9,291	4,136	8,726	3,075
TOTAL VIOLATIONS RECORDED	13,427		11,801	

2017 Top Ten Counties For Boating Accidents

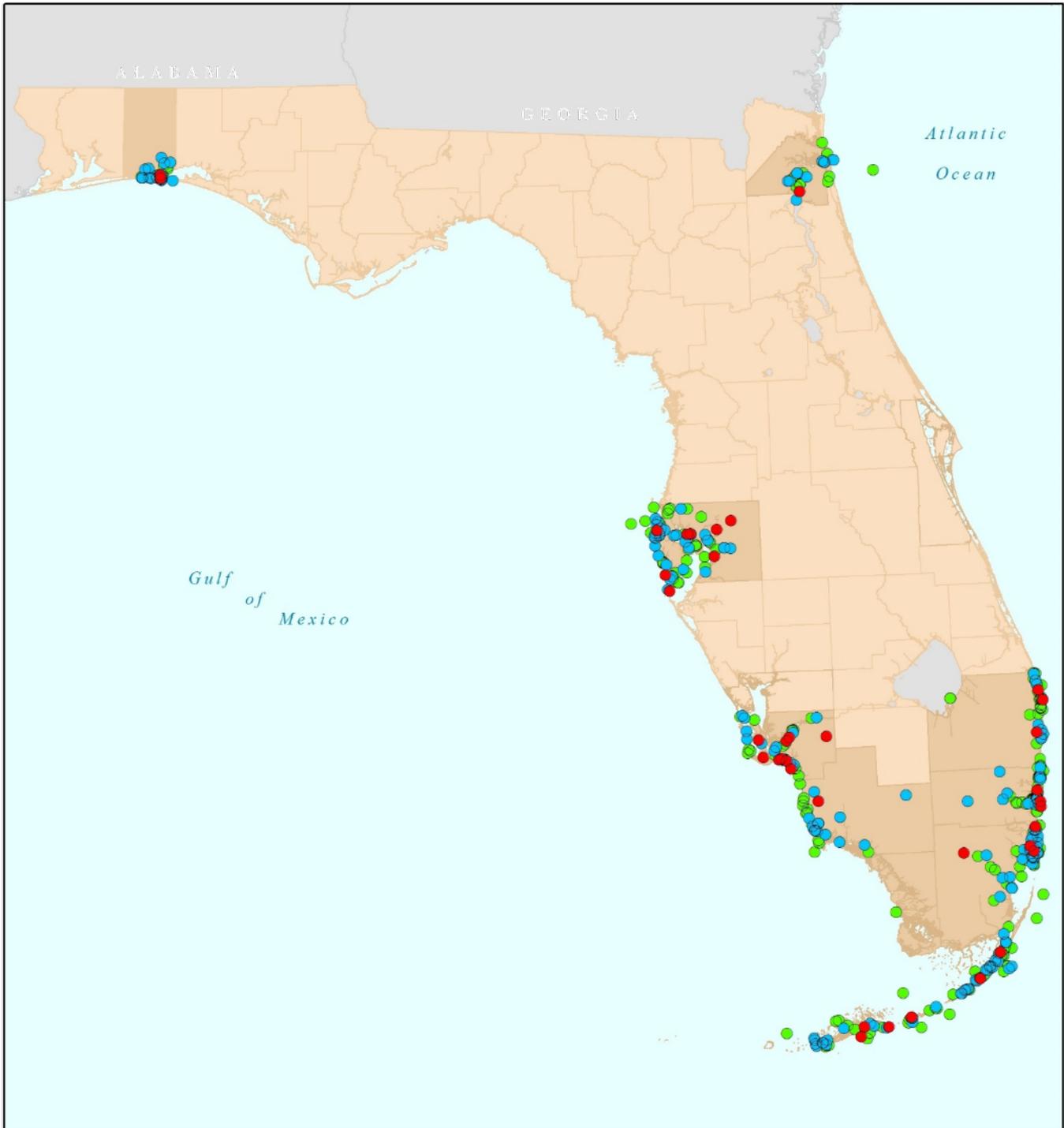


A thorough review of the annual boating accident statistics has revealed that 63% of the reportable boating accidents during the 2017 calendar year occurred in 10 Florida counties.

The information on the following pages represents a breakdown of the accident data from each of these top 10 counties. The graphs show the type of vessels involved, the length, the primary cause of each accident and the primary type of accident for each county. There is also a map of each county with points designating the accident locations.

The information found in this section will provide a basis for future boating safety awareness efforts implemented by the FWC Division of Law Enforcement, Boating and Waterways Section.

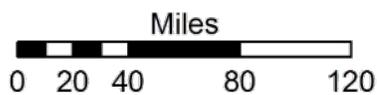
BOATING ACCIDENTS STATISTICAL REPORT



Florida Top 10 Counties of Boating Accidents during 2017

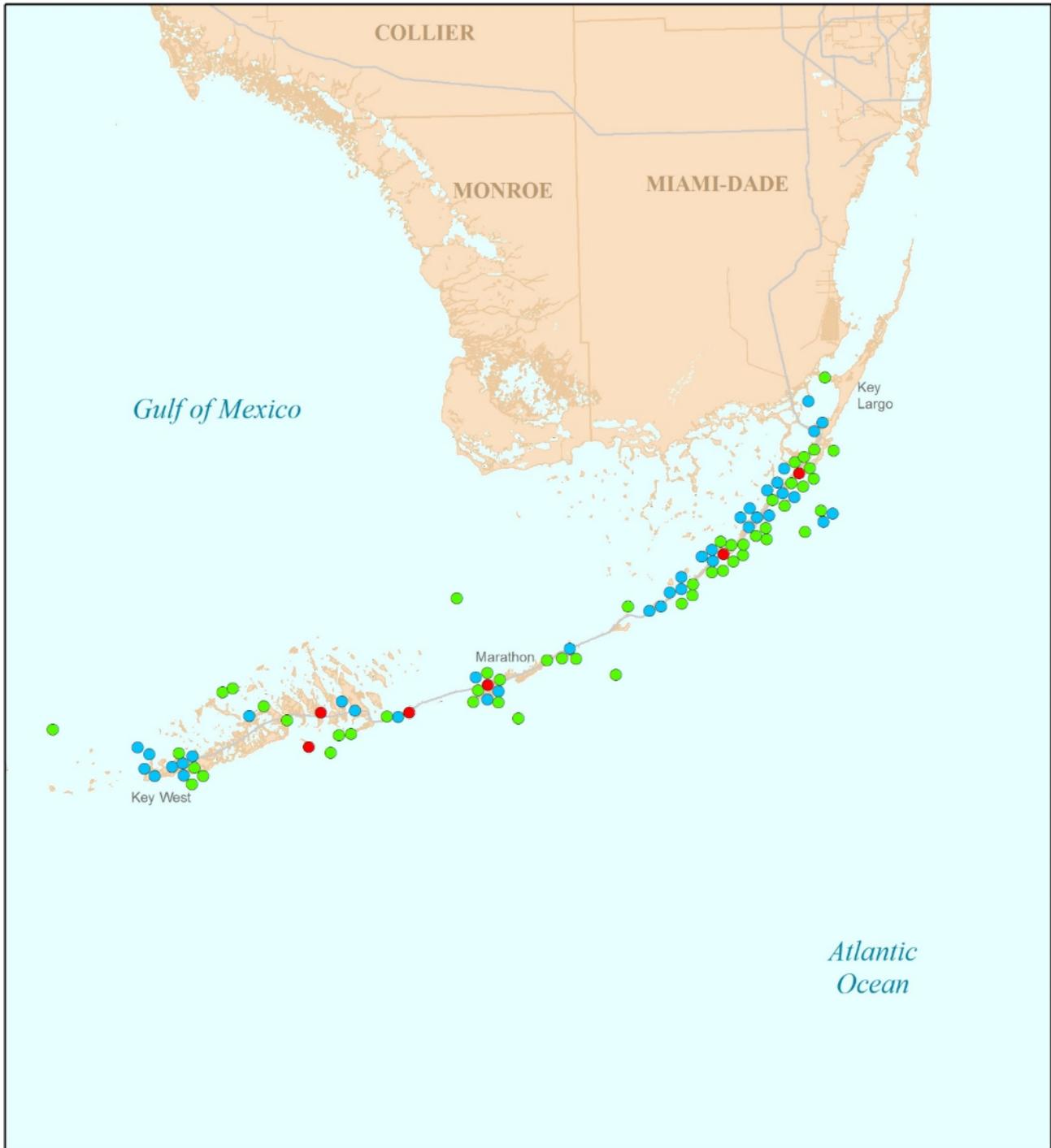
Legend

- Fatal Accident (37)
- Accident with Injury (179)
- Accident without Injury (267)



Map document
created by
FWC LE GIS





Known Locations of Accidents in Monroe County during 2017

- Legend**
- Fatal Accident (6)
 - Accident with Injury (39)
 - Accident without Injury (51)

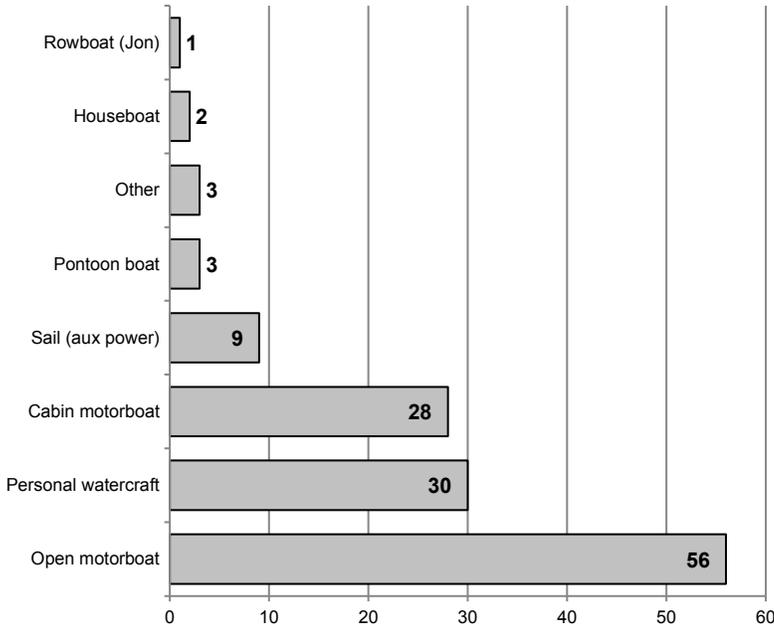


Map document
created by
FWC DLE GIS

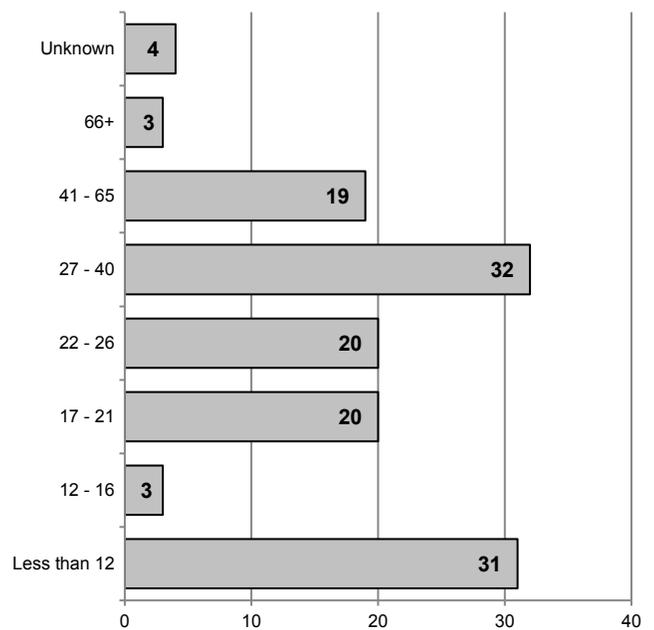


1. MONROE COUNTY

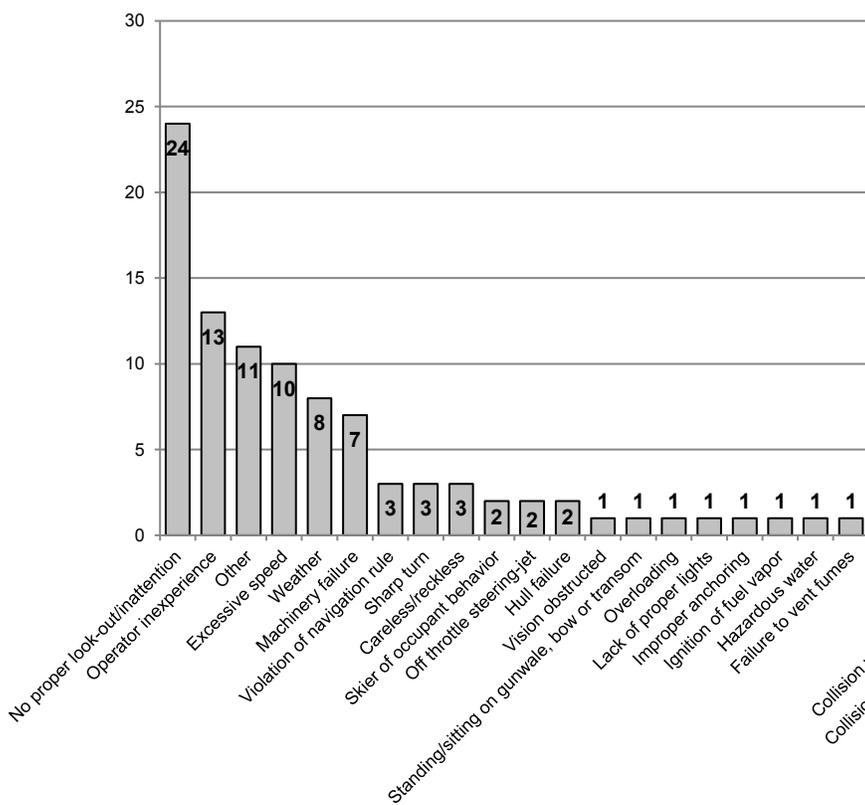
TYPE OF VESSEL



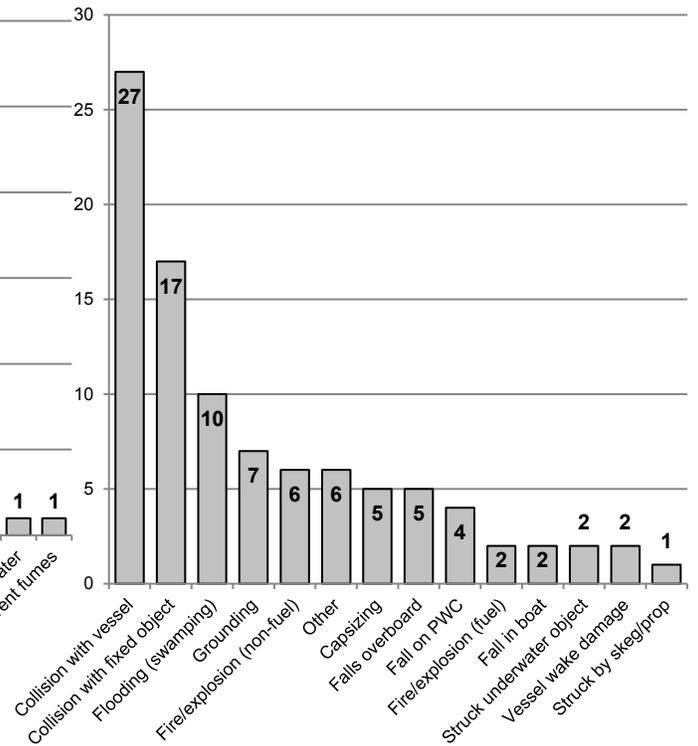
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

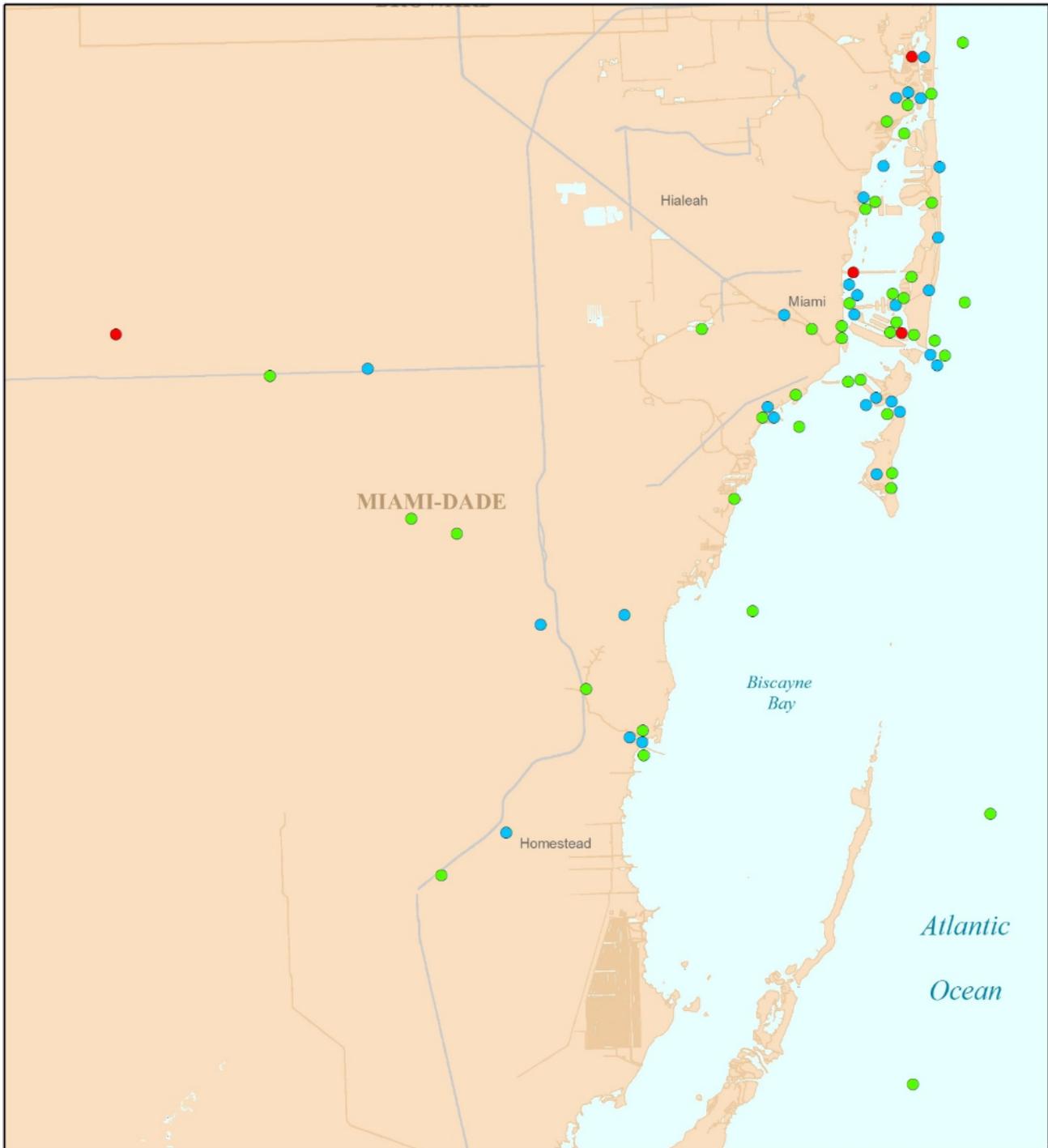


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Miami-Dade County during 2017

Legend

- Fatal Accident (5)
- Accident with Injury (29)
- Accident without Injury (42)

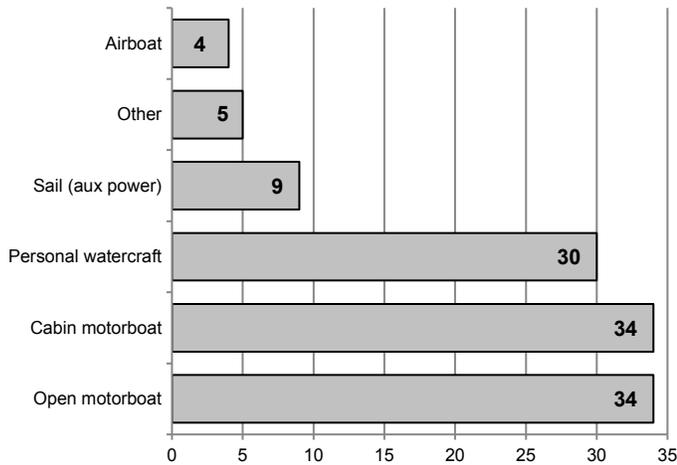


Map document
created by
FWC DLE GIS

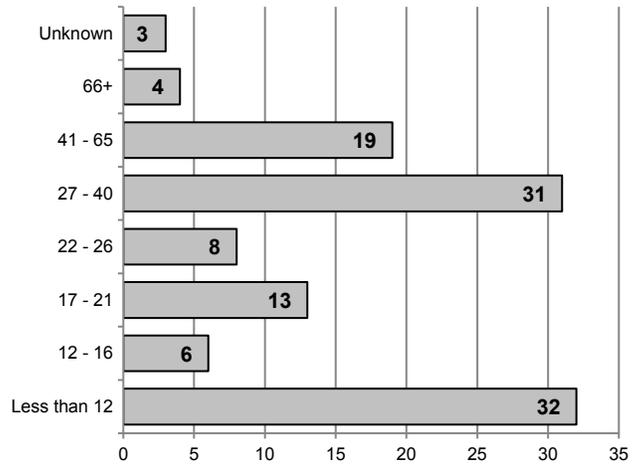


2. MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

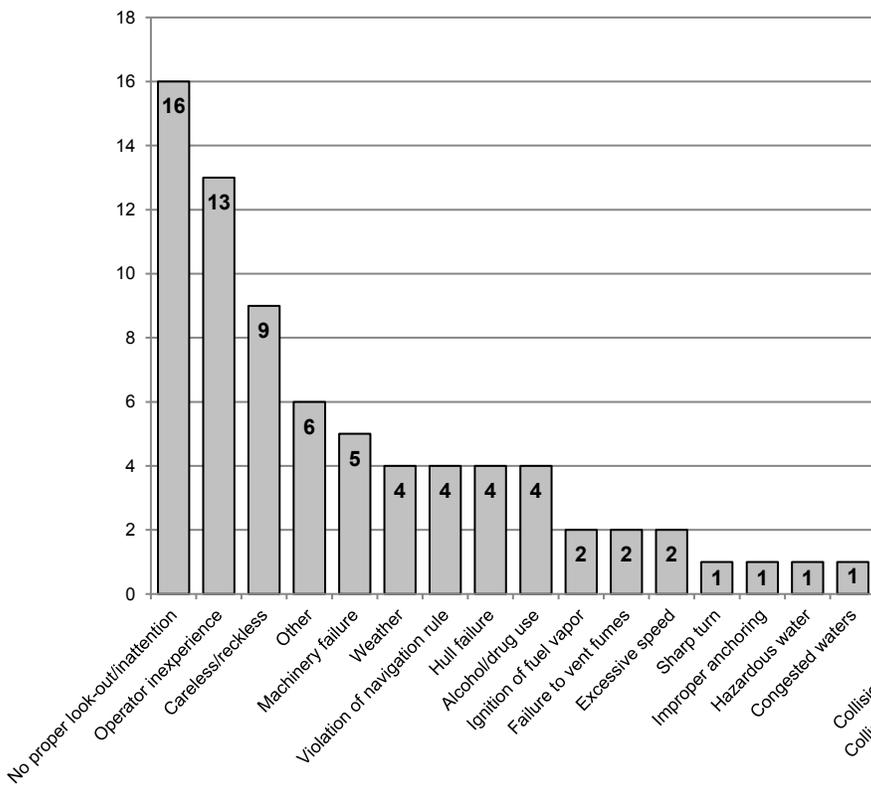
TYPE OF VESSEL



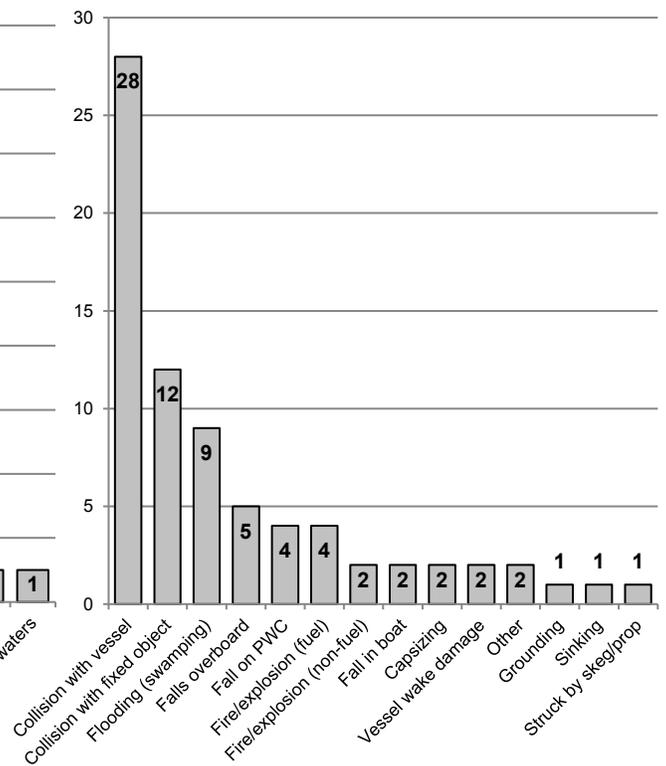
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

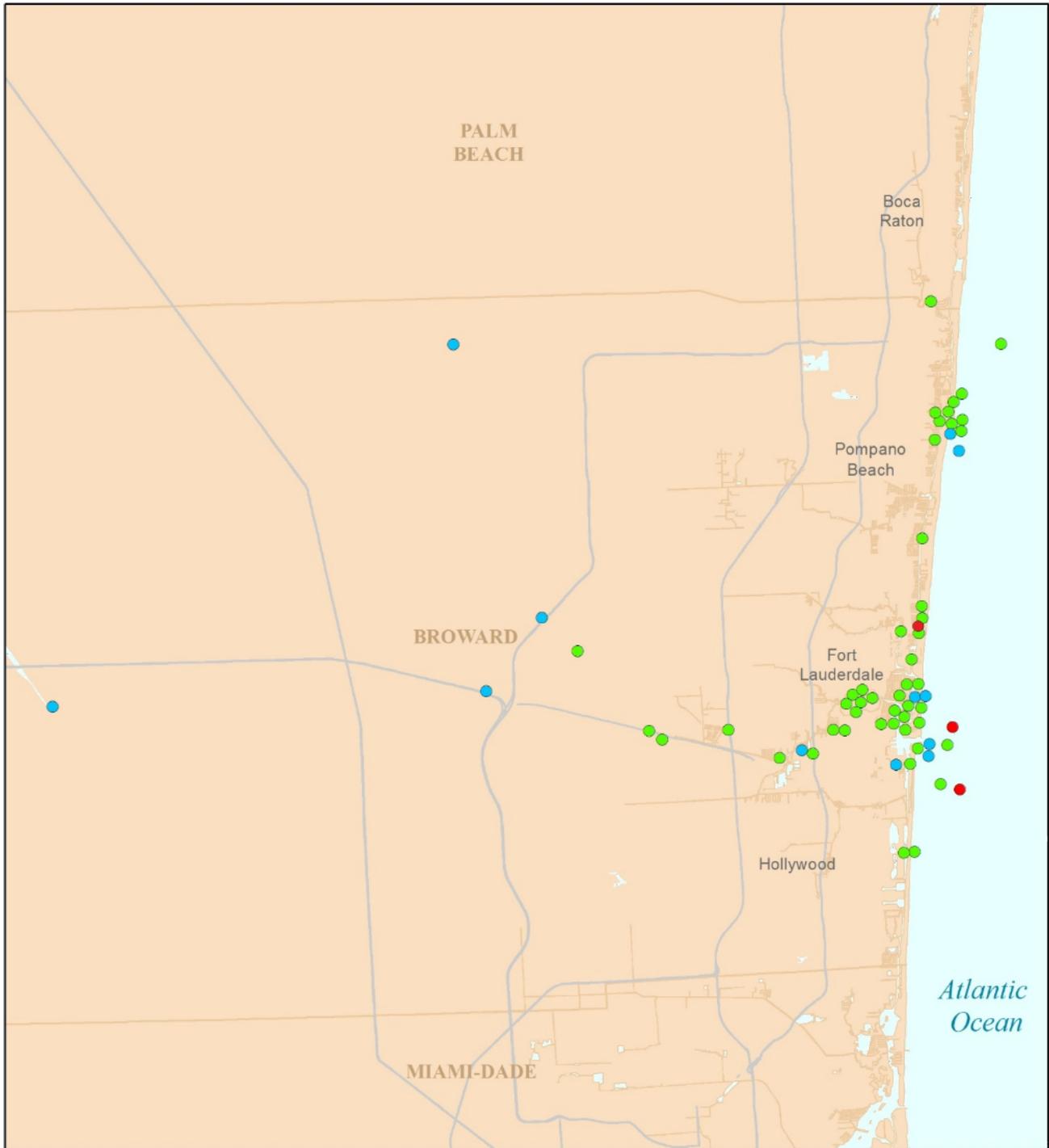


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Broward County during 2017

Legend

- Fatal Accident (3)
- Accident with Injury (12)
- Accident without Injury (48)

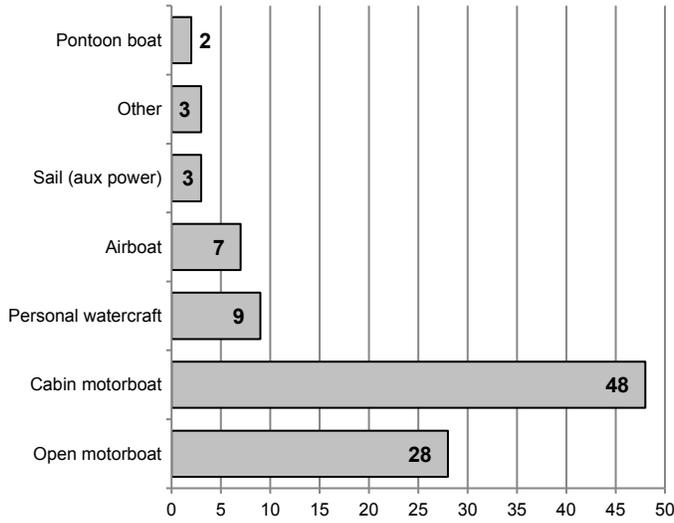


Map document
created by
FWC DLE GIS

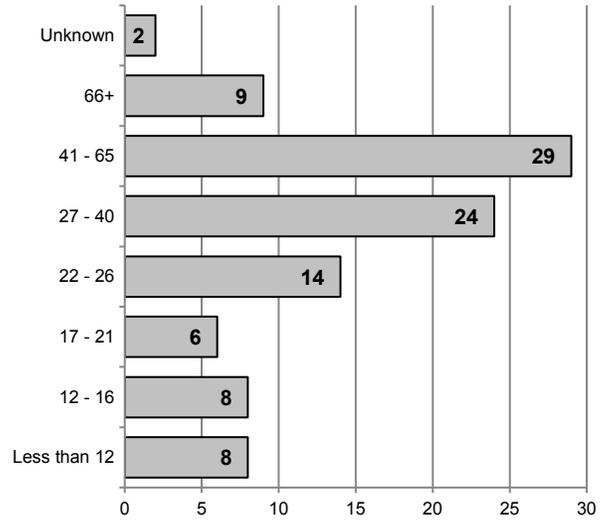


3. BROWARD COUNTY

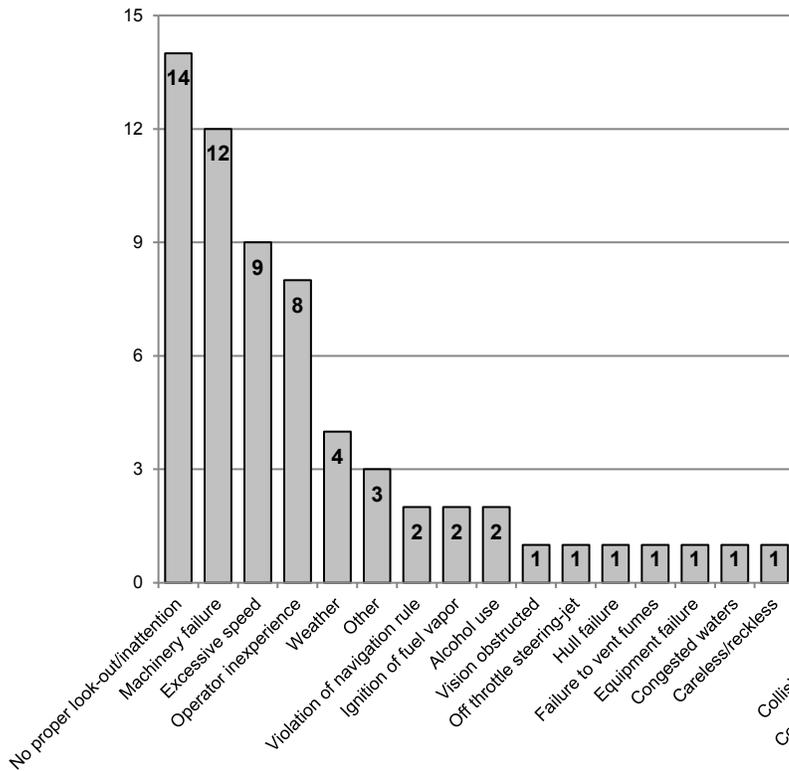
TYPE OF VESSEL



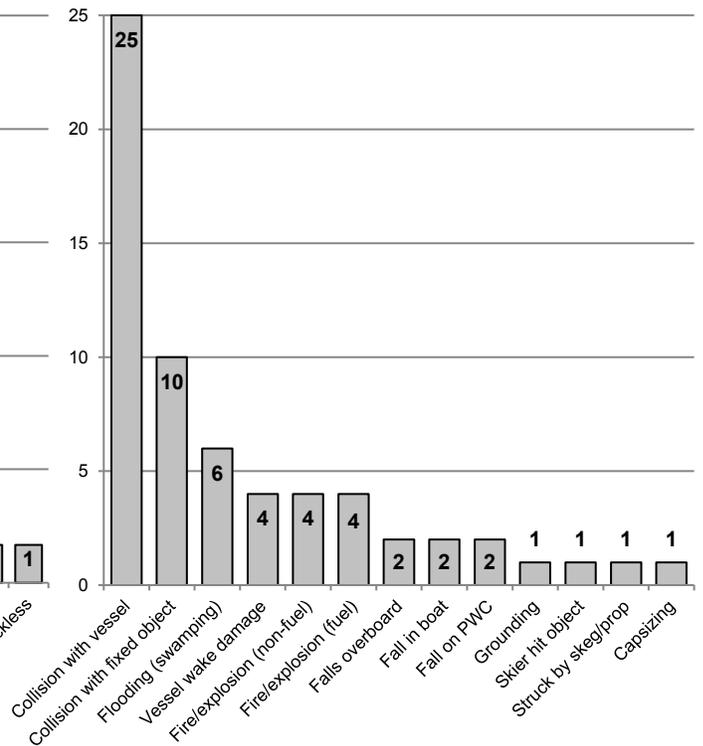
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

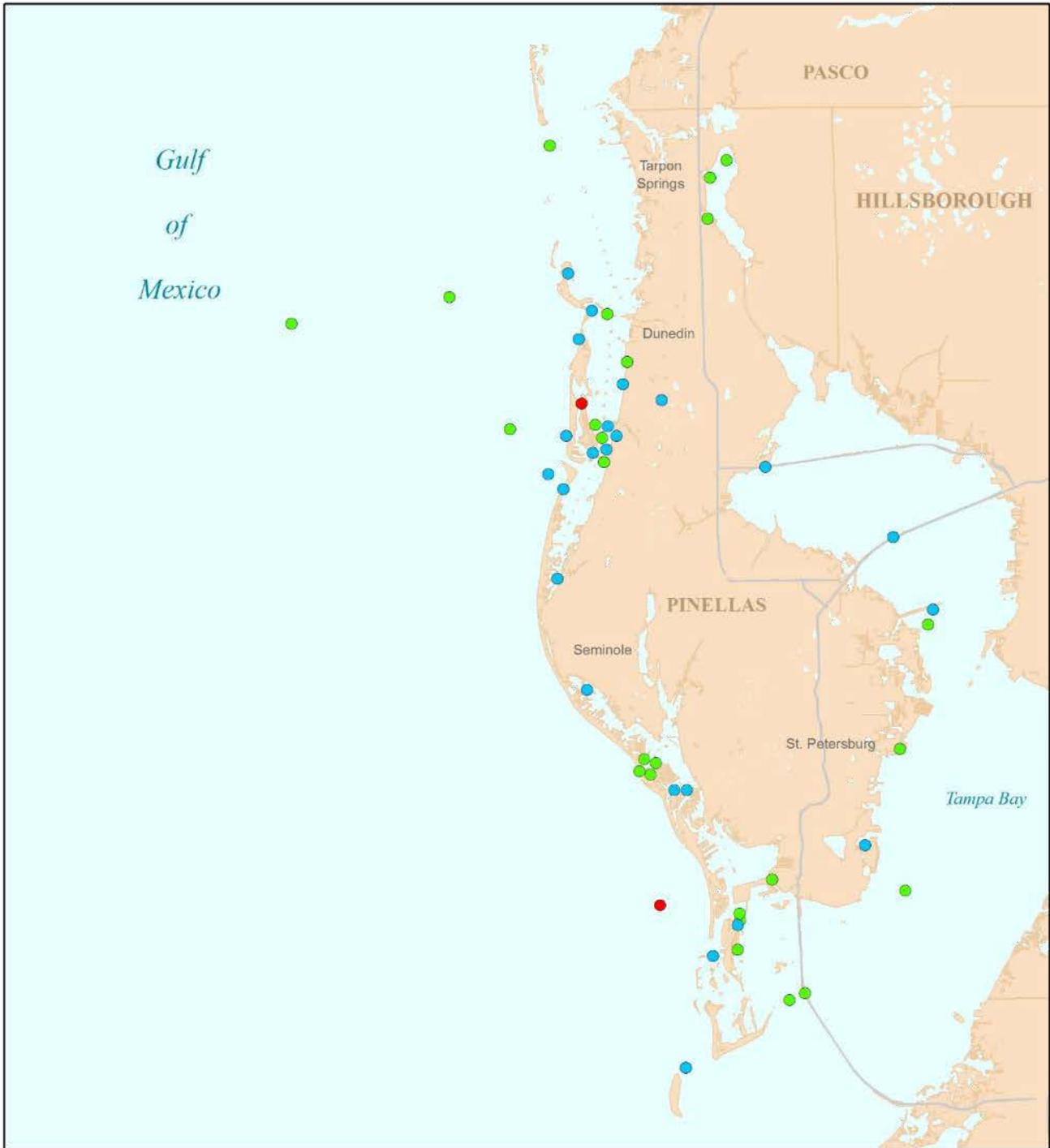


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Pinellas County during 2017

Legend

- Fatal Accident (2)
- Accident with Injury (20)
- Accident without Injury (23)

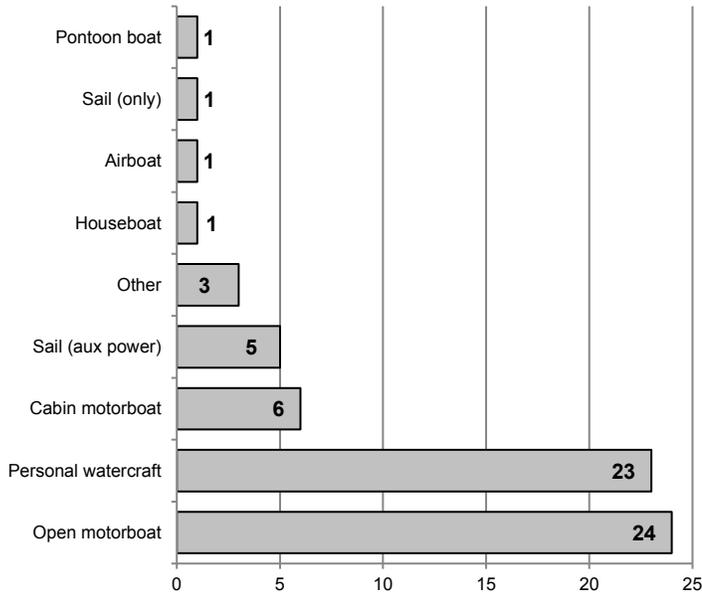


Map document
created by
FWC DLE GIS

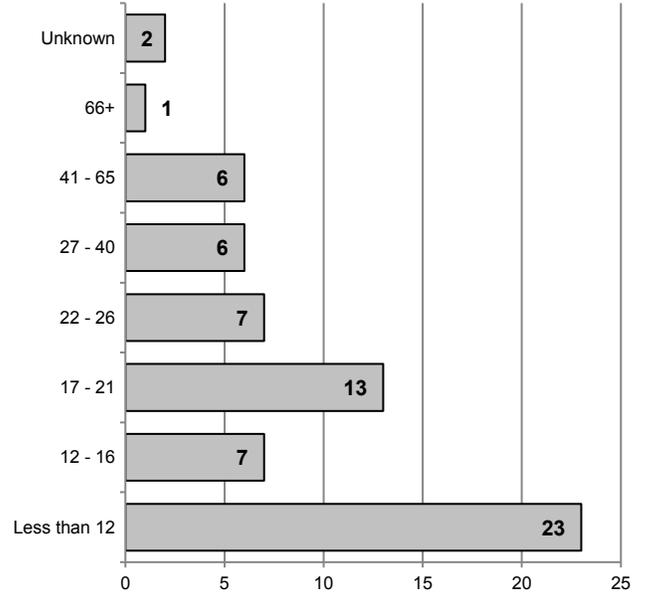


4. PINELLAS COUNTY

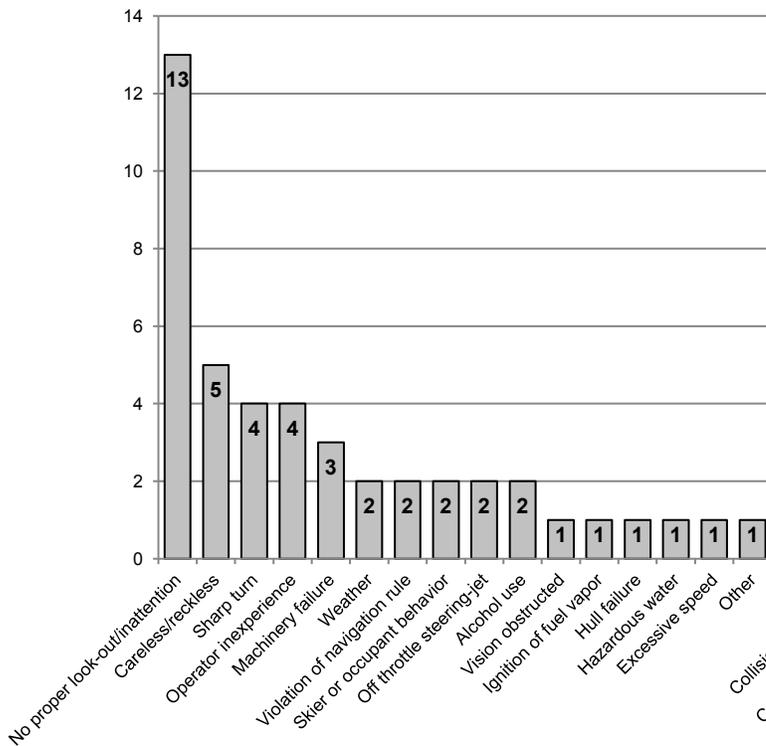
TYPE OF VESSEL



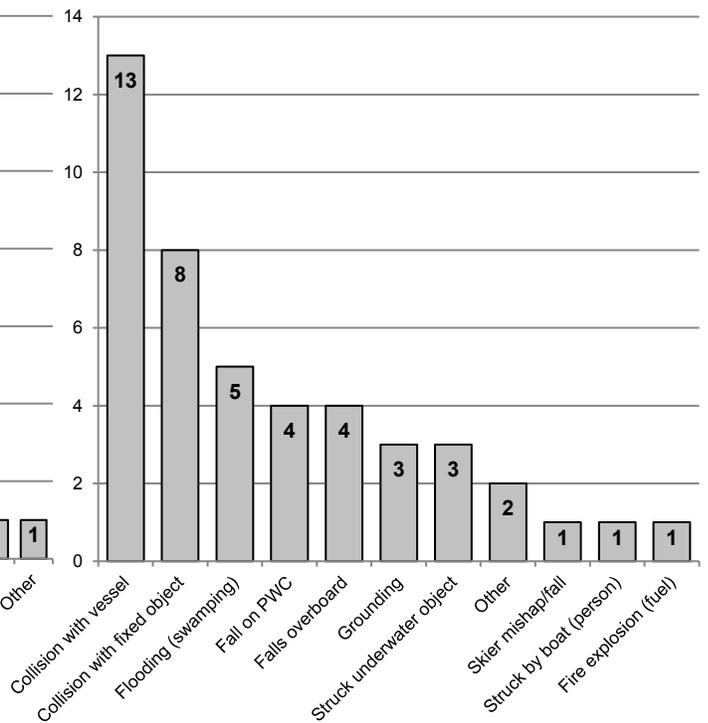
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)



PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Lee County during 2017

Legend

- Fatal Accident (9)
- Accident with Injury (14)
- Accident without Injury (20)

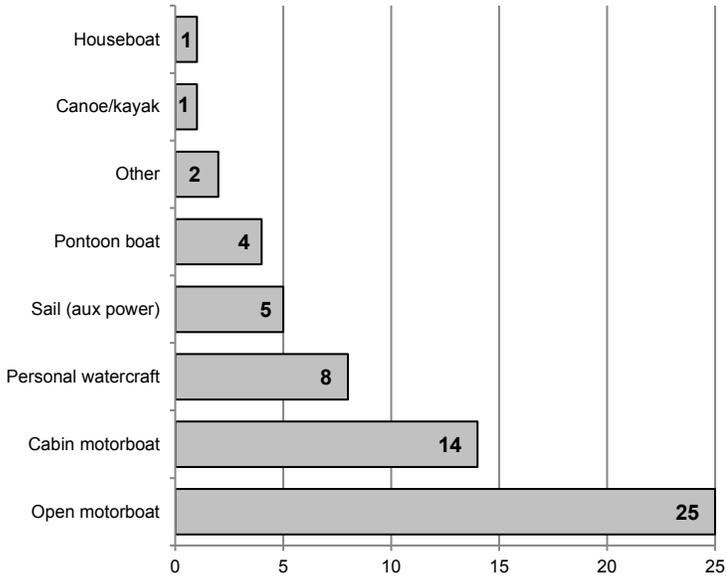


Map document
created by
FWC DLE GIS

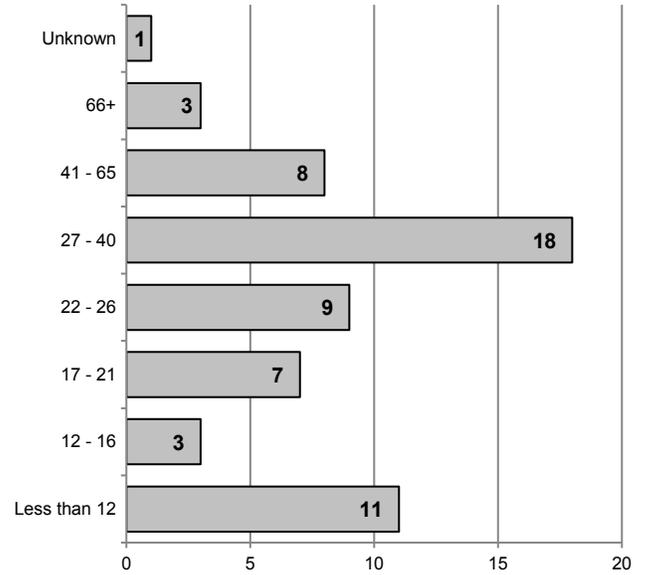


5. LEE COUNTY

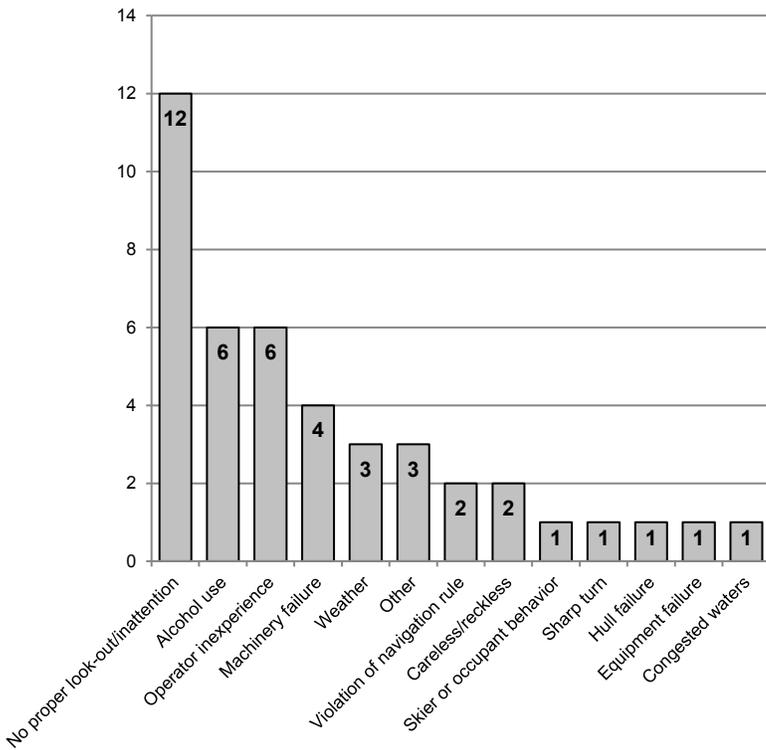
TYPE OF VESSEL



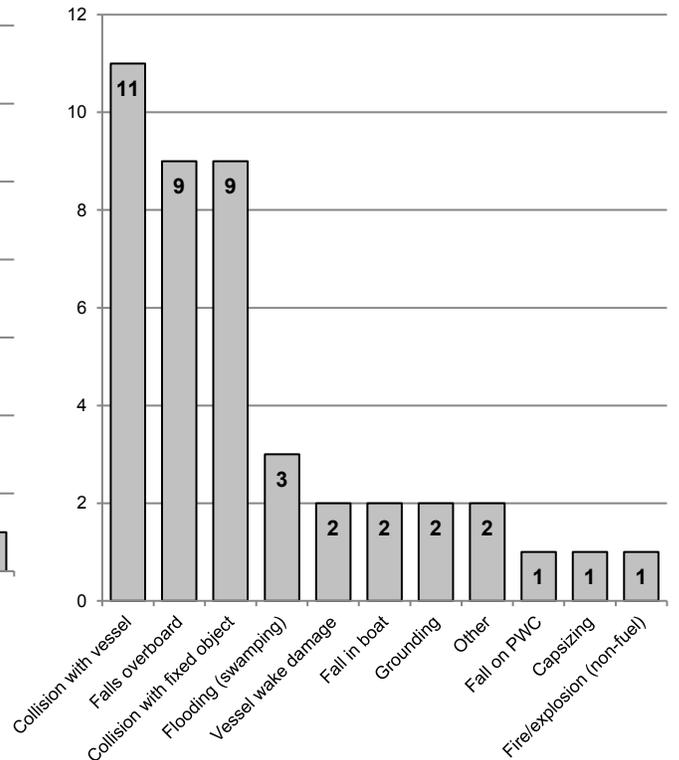
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

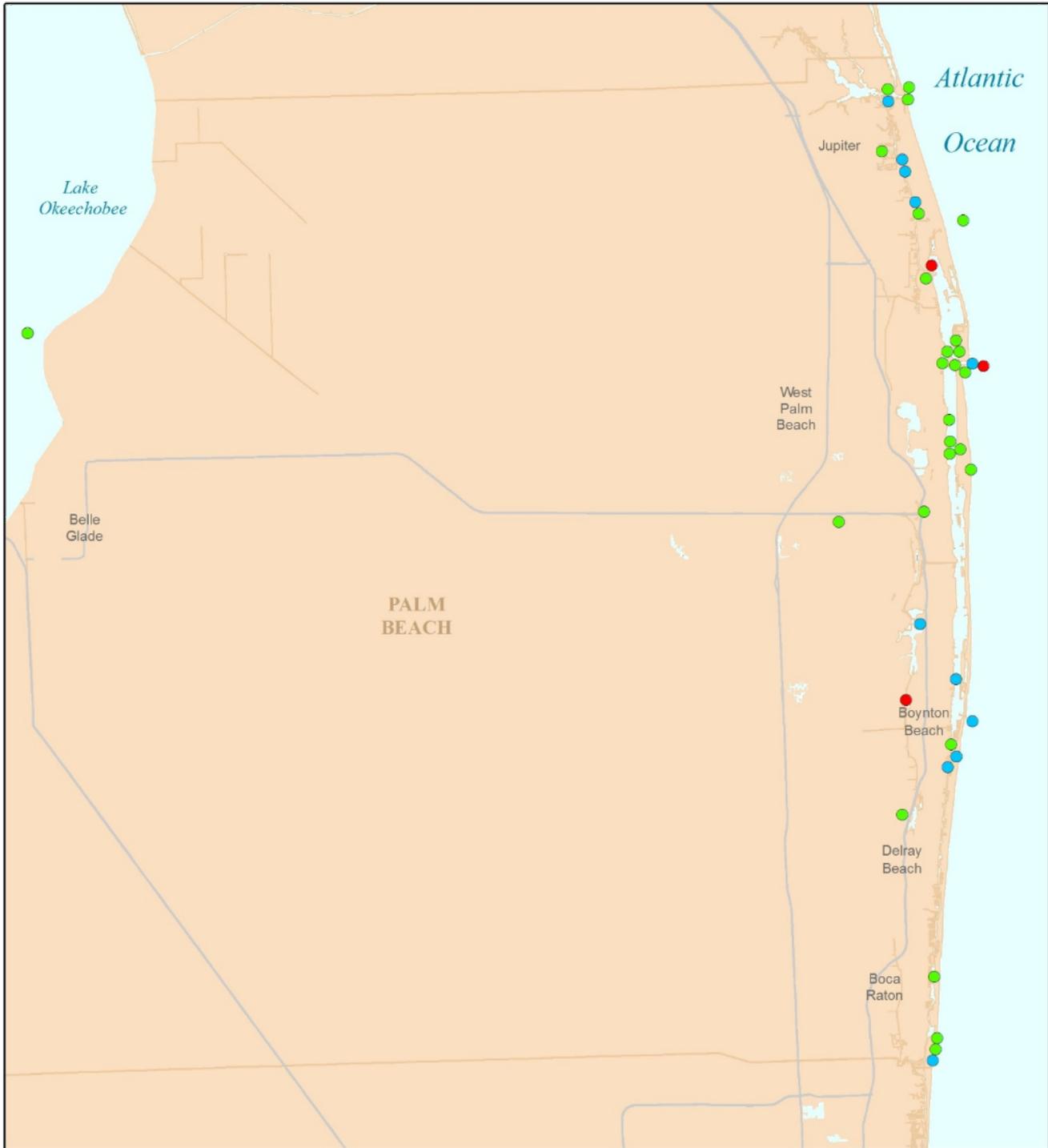


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT

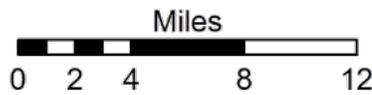




Known Locations of Accidents in Palm Beach County during 2017

Legend

- Fatal Accident (3)
- Accident with Injury (11)
- Accident without Injury (27)

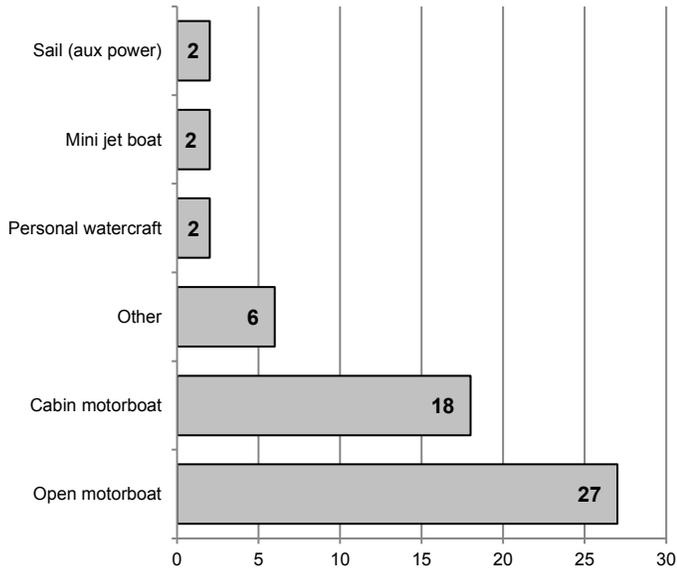


Map document
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FWC DLE GIS

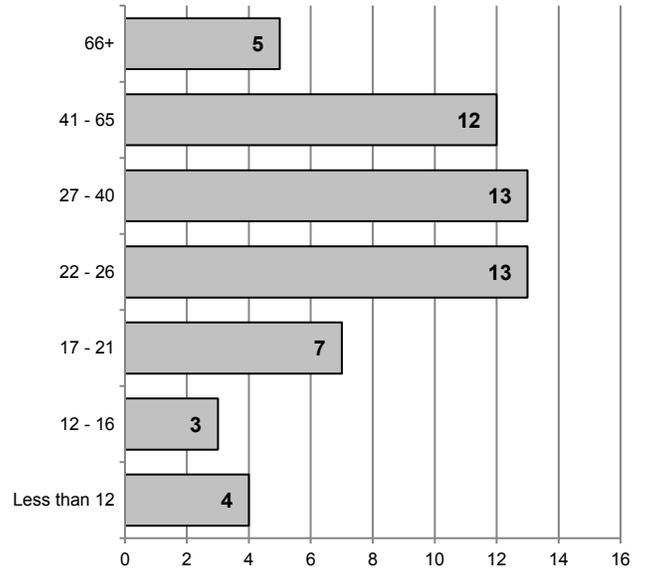


6. PALM BEACH COUNTY

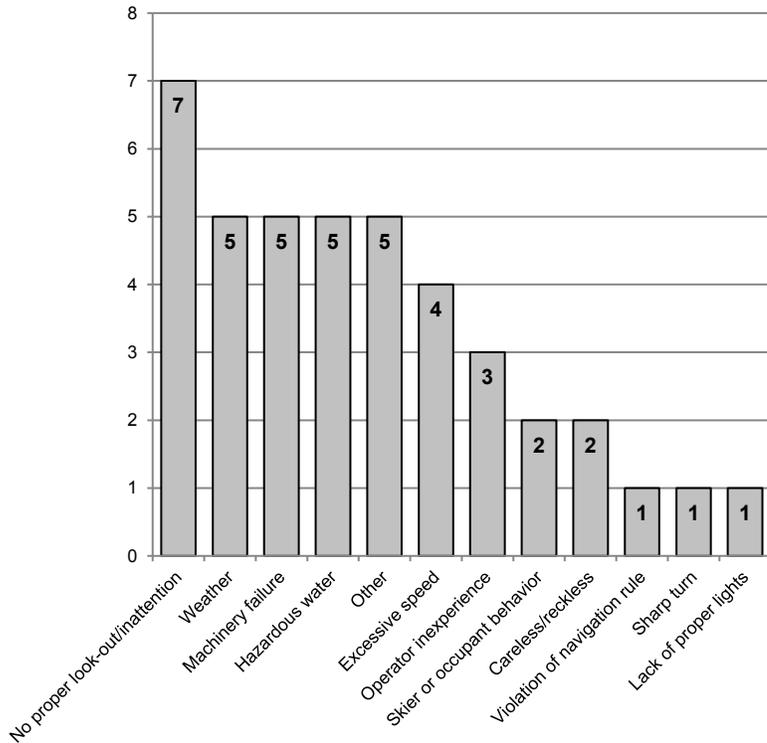
TYPE OF VESSEL



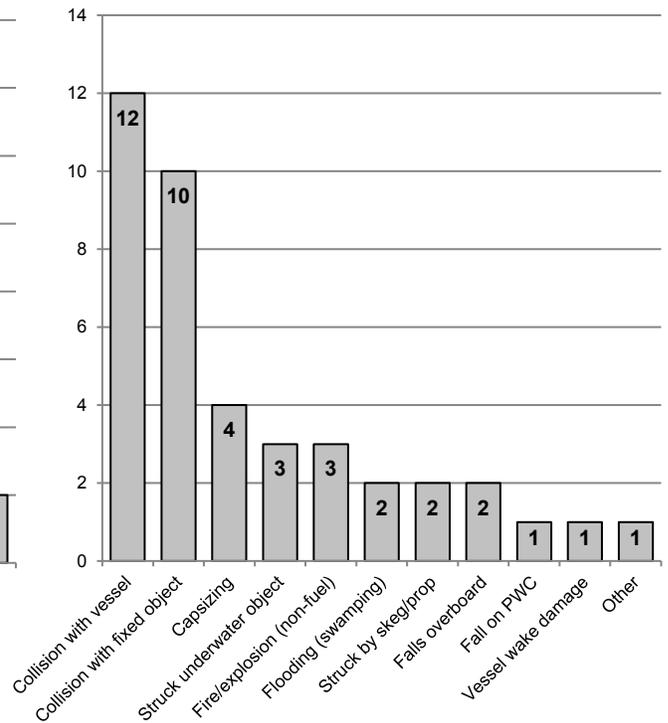
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

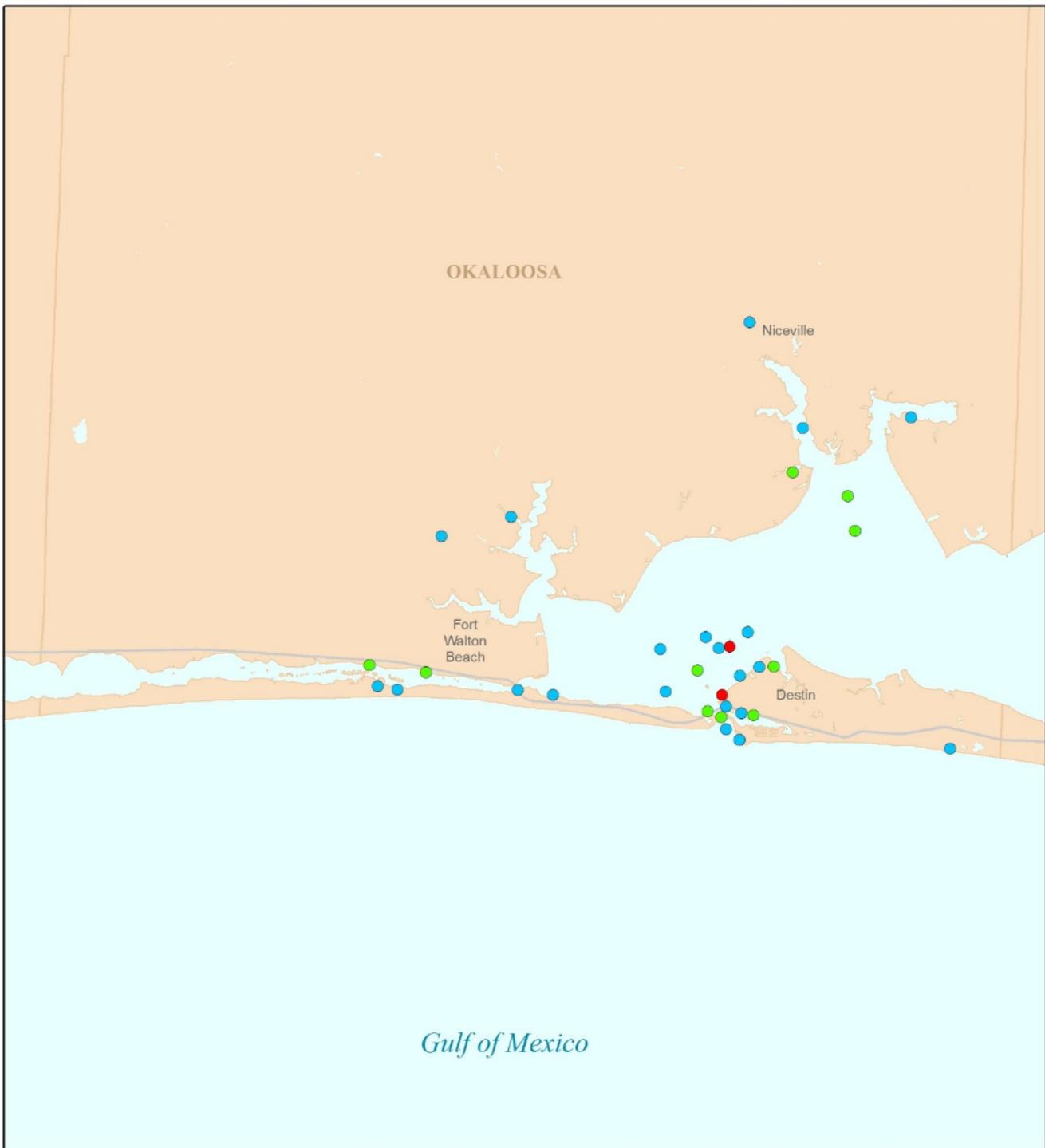


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT

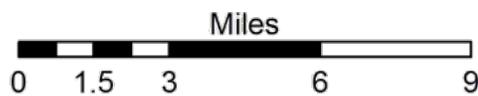




Known Locations of Accidents in Okaloosa County during 2017

Legend

- Fatal Accident (2)
- Accident with Injury (21)
- Accident without Injury (11)

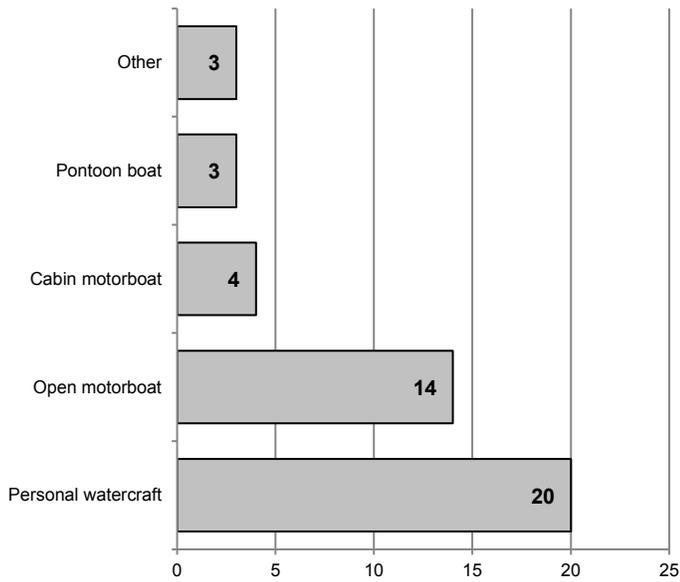


Map document
created by
FWC DLE GIS

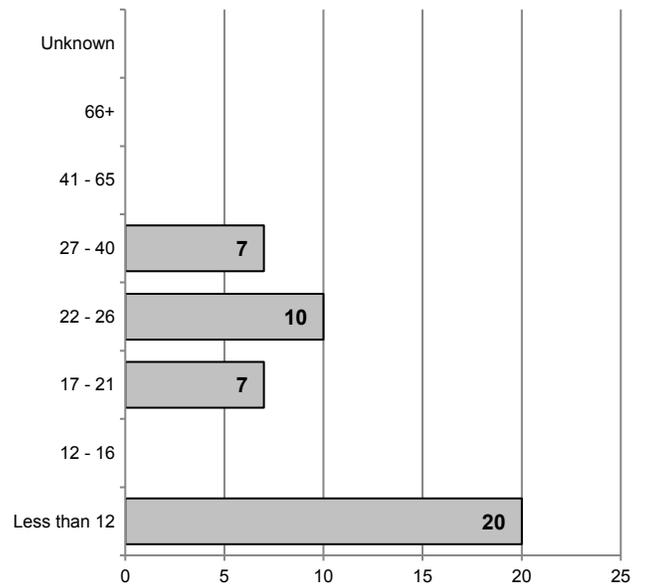


7. OKALOOSA COUNTY

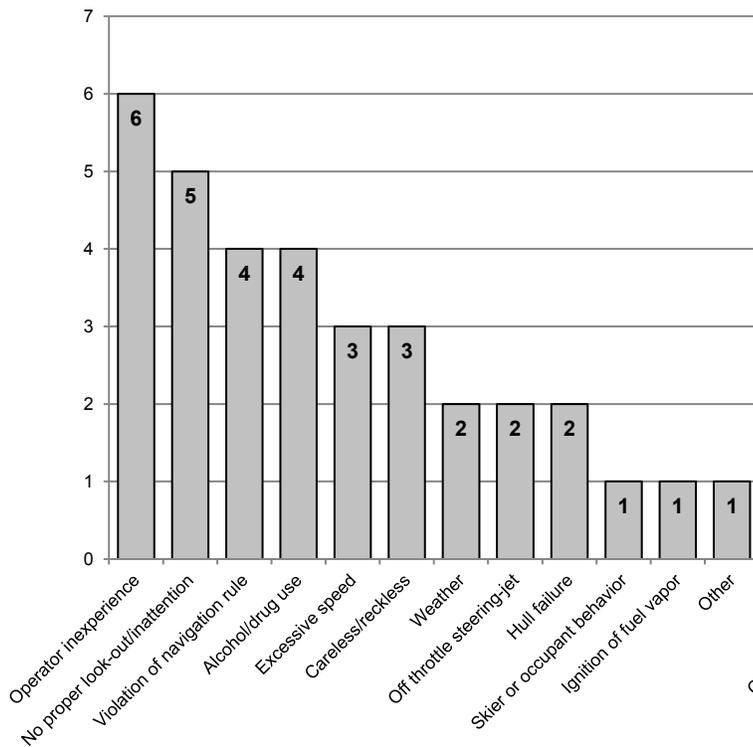
TYPE OF VESSEL



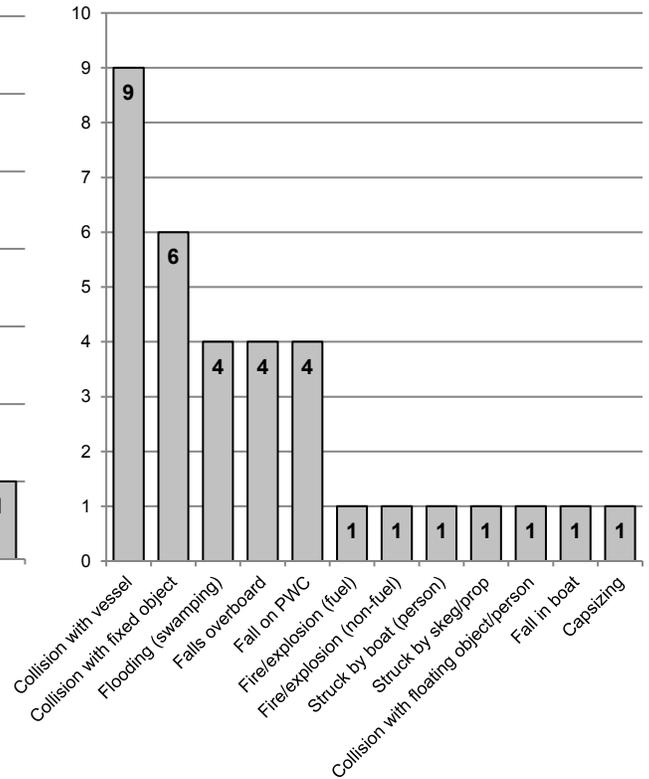
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)



PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Collier County during 2017

Legend

- Fatal Accident (1)
- Accident with Injury (13)
- Accident without Injury (17)

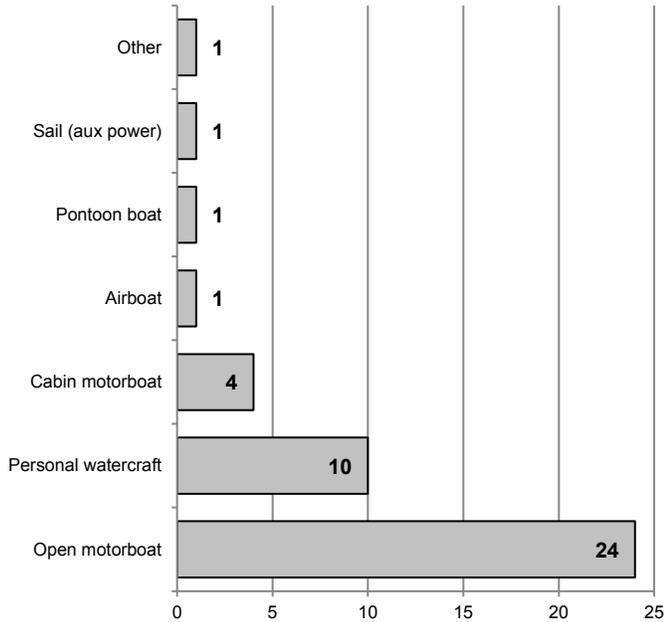


Map document
created by
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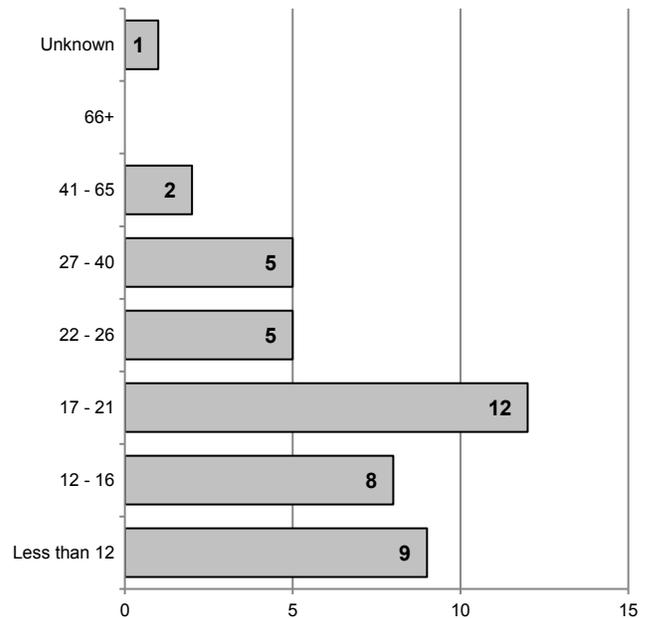


8. COLLIER COUNTY

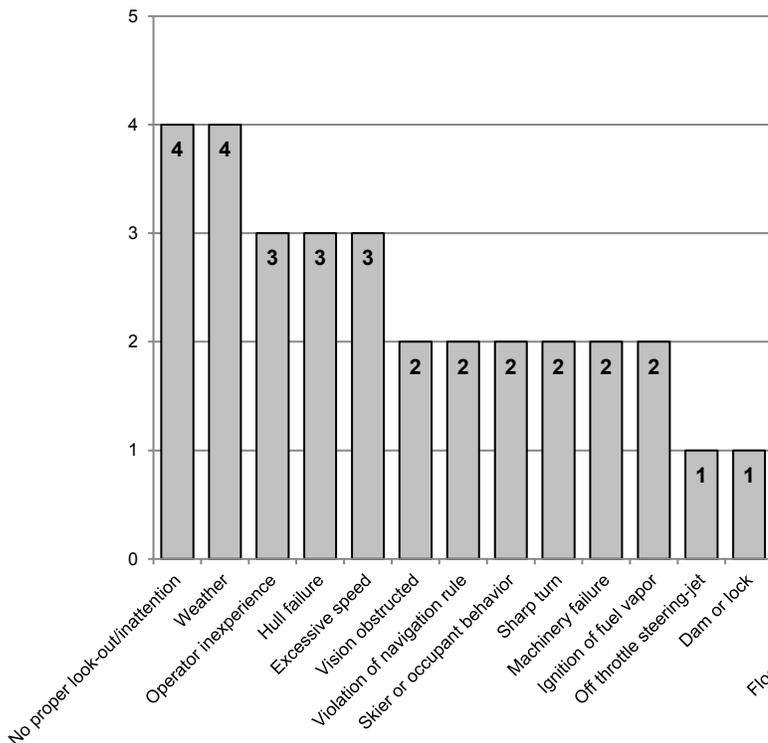
TYPE OF VESSEL



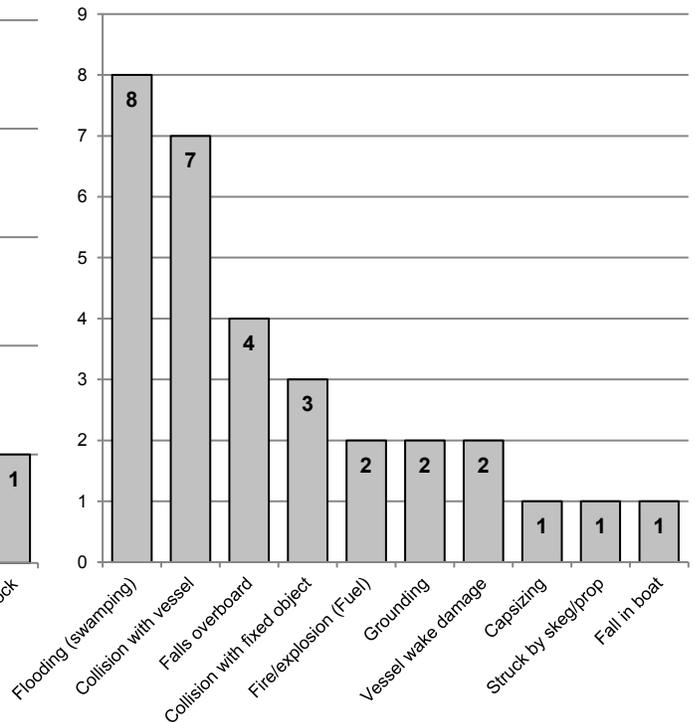
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

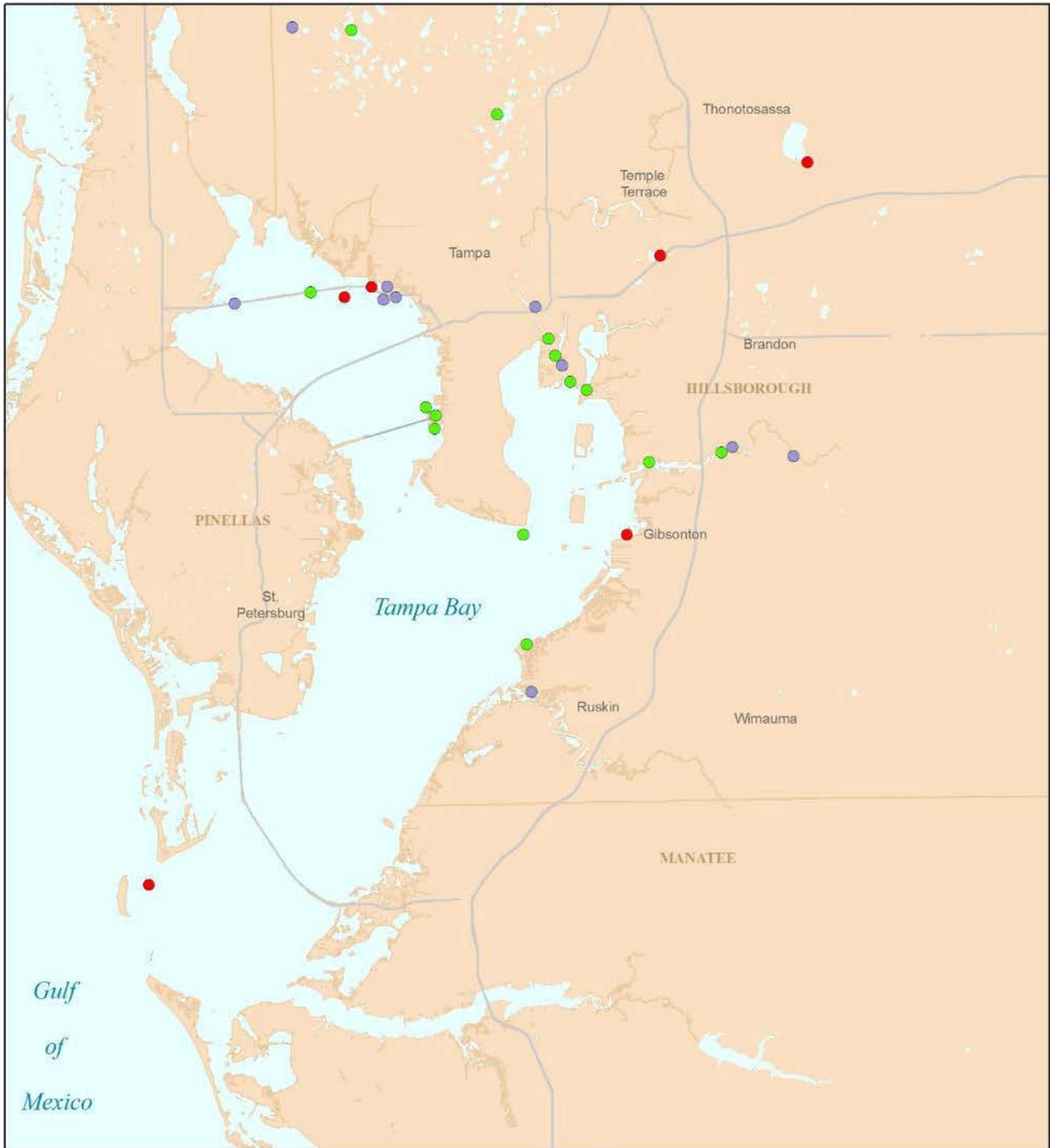


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Hillsborough County during 2017

Legend

- Fatal Accident (6)
- Accident with Injury (10)
- Accident without Injury (14)

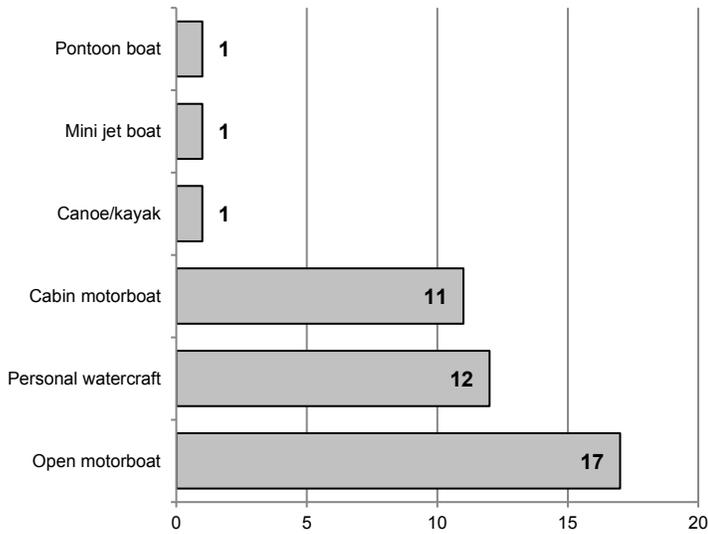


Map document
created by
FWC DLE GIS

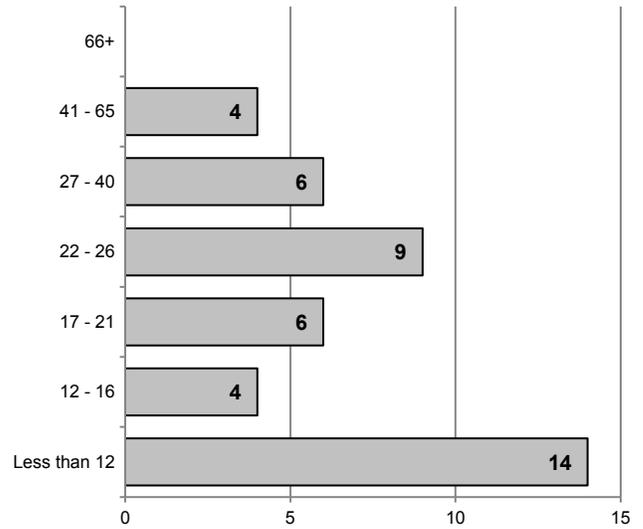


9. HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

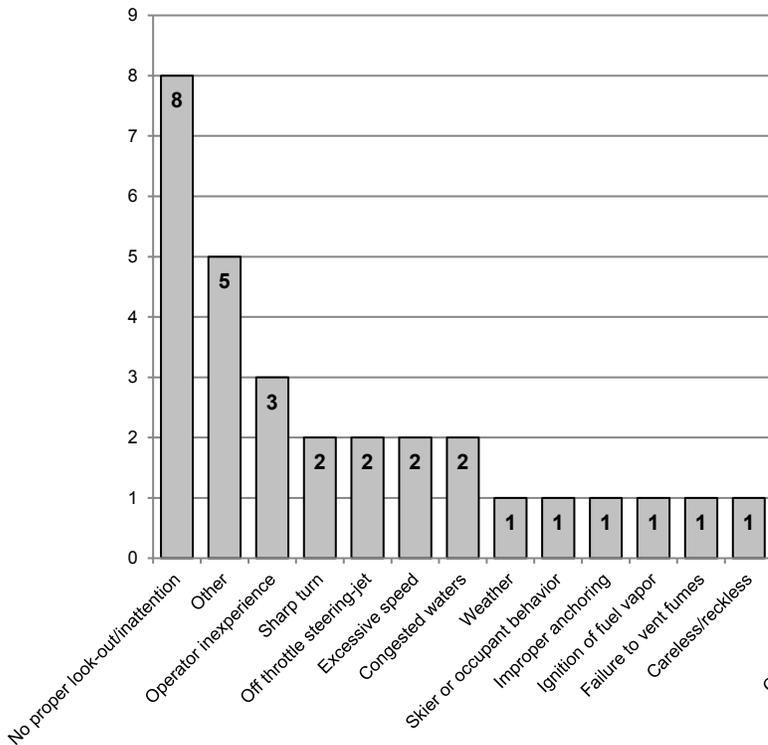
TYPE OF VESSEL



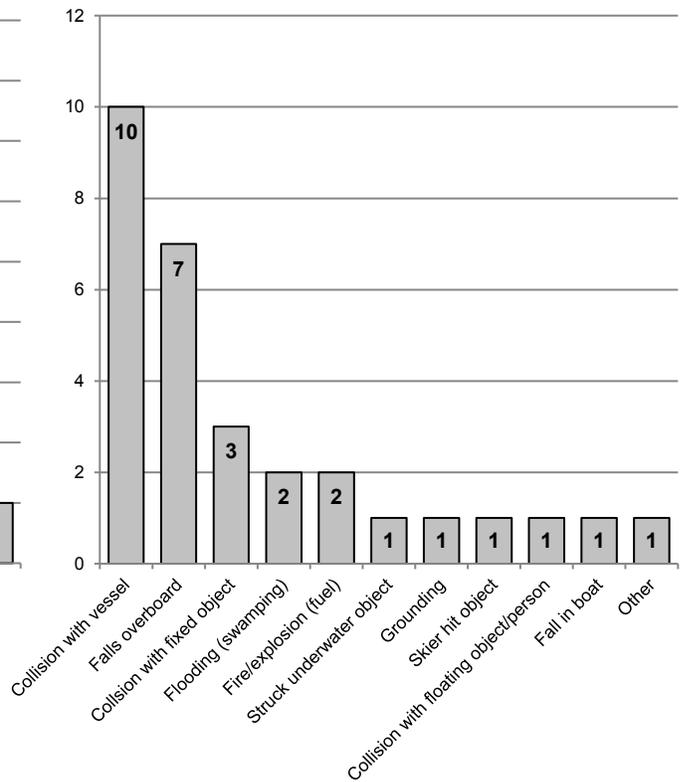
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

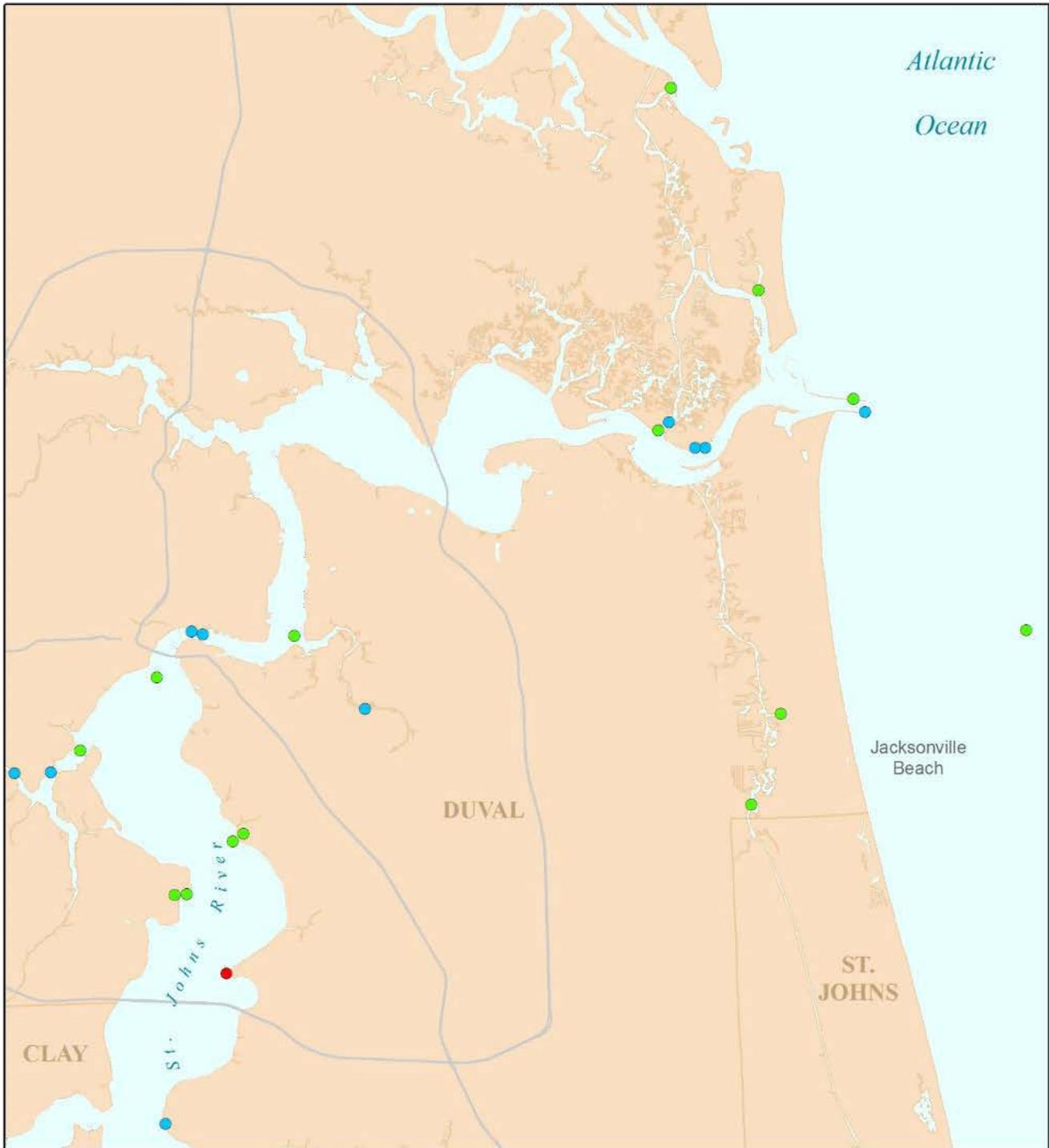


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT

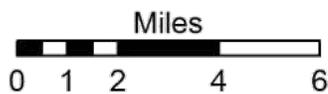




Known Locations of Accidents in Duval County during 2017

Legend

- Fatal Accident (1)
- Accident with Injury (10)
- Accident without Injury (14)

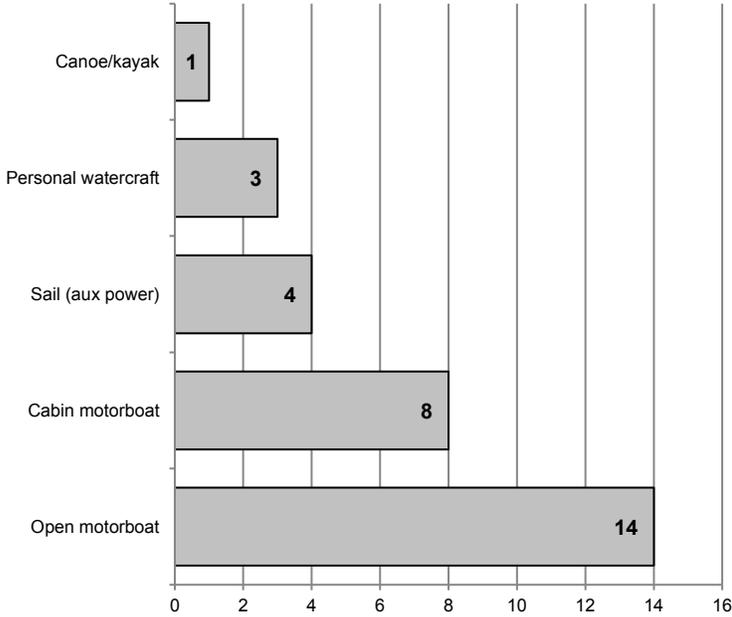


Map document
created by
FWC DLE GIS

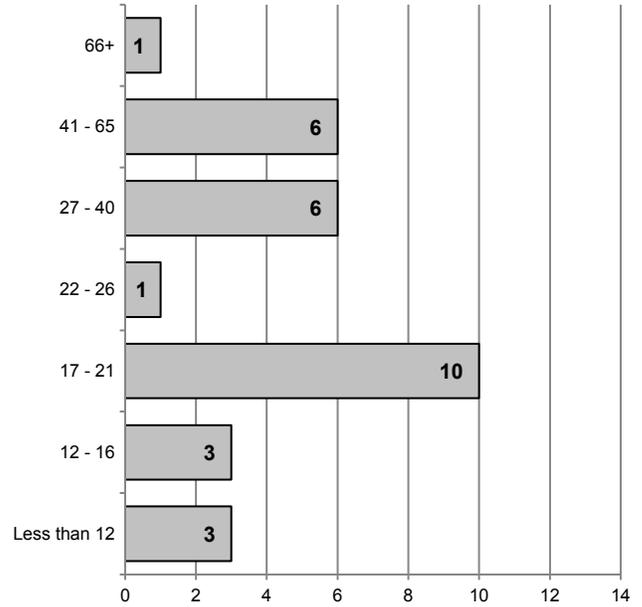


10. DUVAL COUNTY

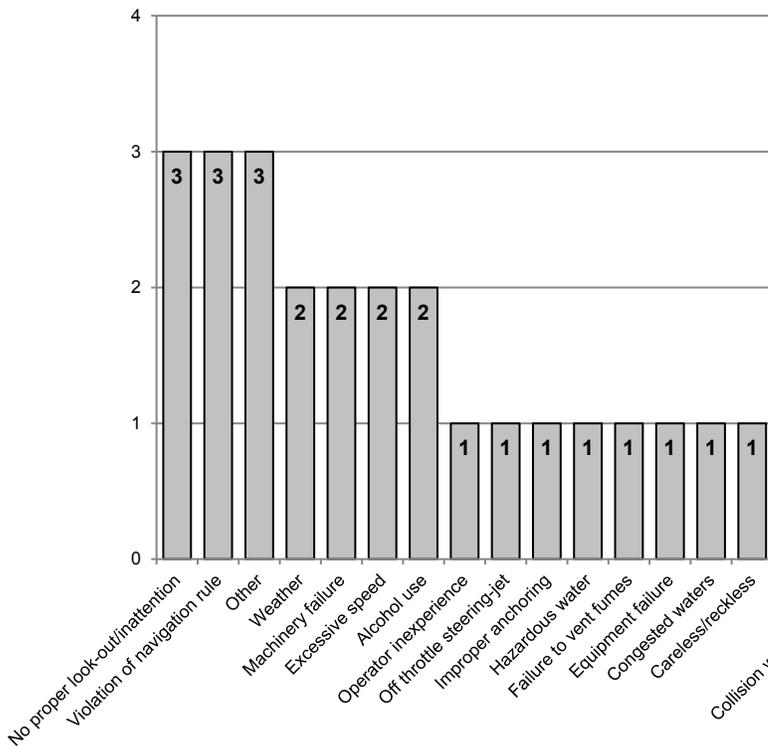
TYPE OF VESSEL



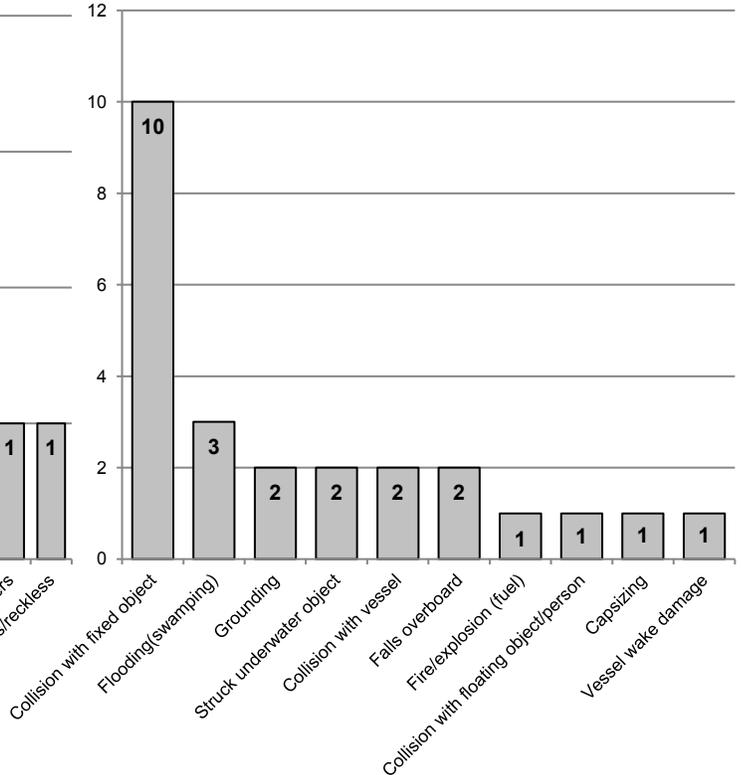
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)



PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT



2017 Top Ten Counties For Boating Accidents

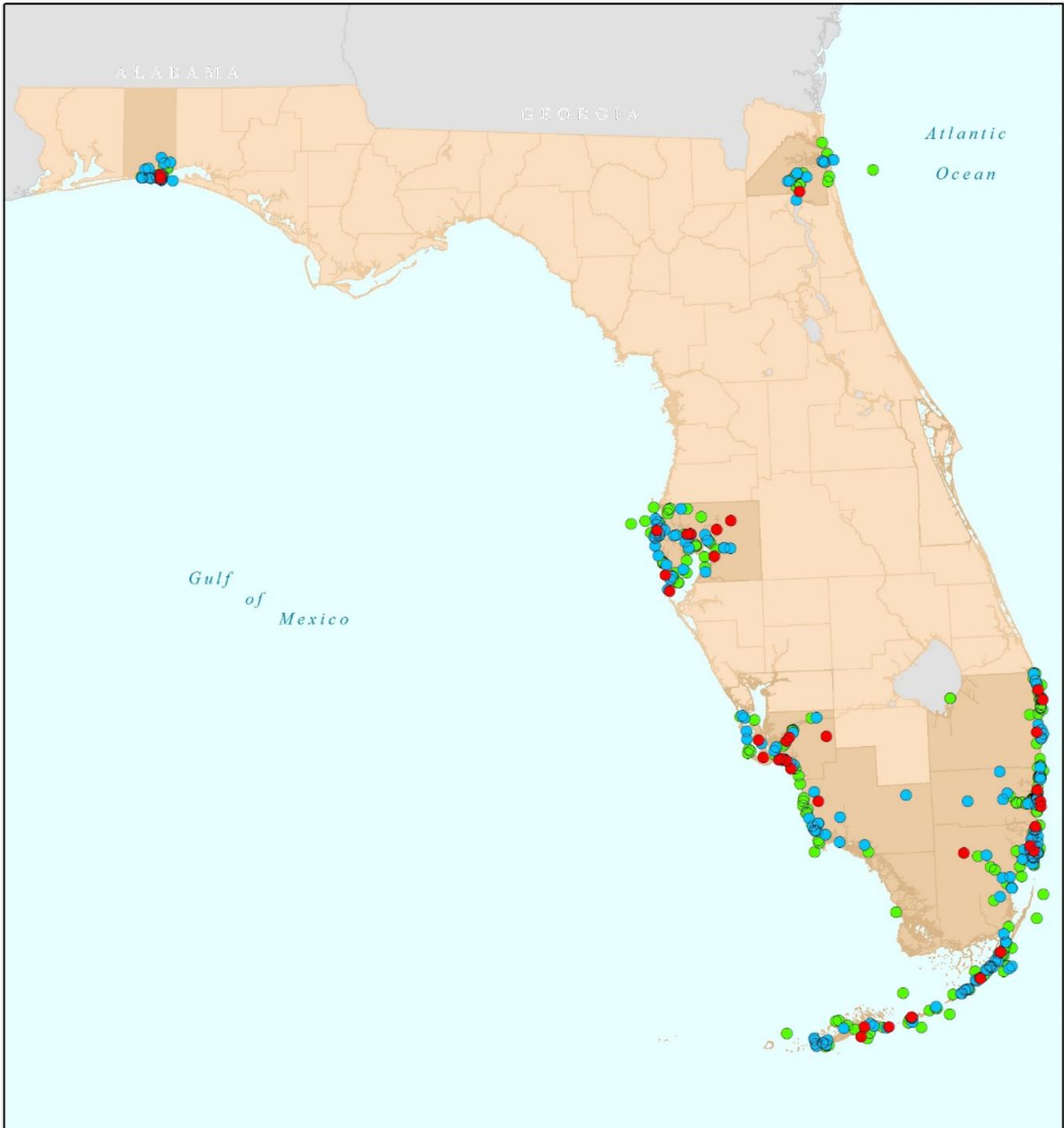


A thorough review of the annual boating accident statistics has revealed that 63% of the reportable boating accidents during the 2017 calendar year occurred in 10 Florida counties.

The information on the following pages represents a breakdown of the accident data from each of these top 10 counties. The graphs show the type of vessels involved, the length, the primary cause of each accident and the primary type of accident for each county. There is also a map of each county with points designating the accident locations.

The information found in this section will provide a basis for future boating safety awareness efforts implemented by the FWC Division of Law Enforcement, Boating and Waterways Section.

BOATING ACCIDENTS STATISTICAL REPORT



Florida Top 10 Counties of Boating Accidents during 2017

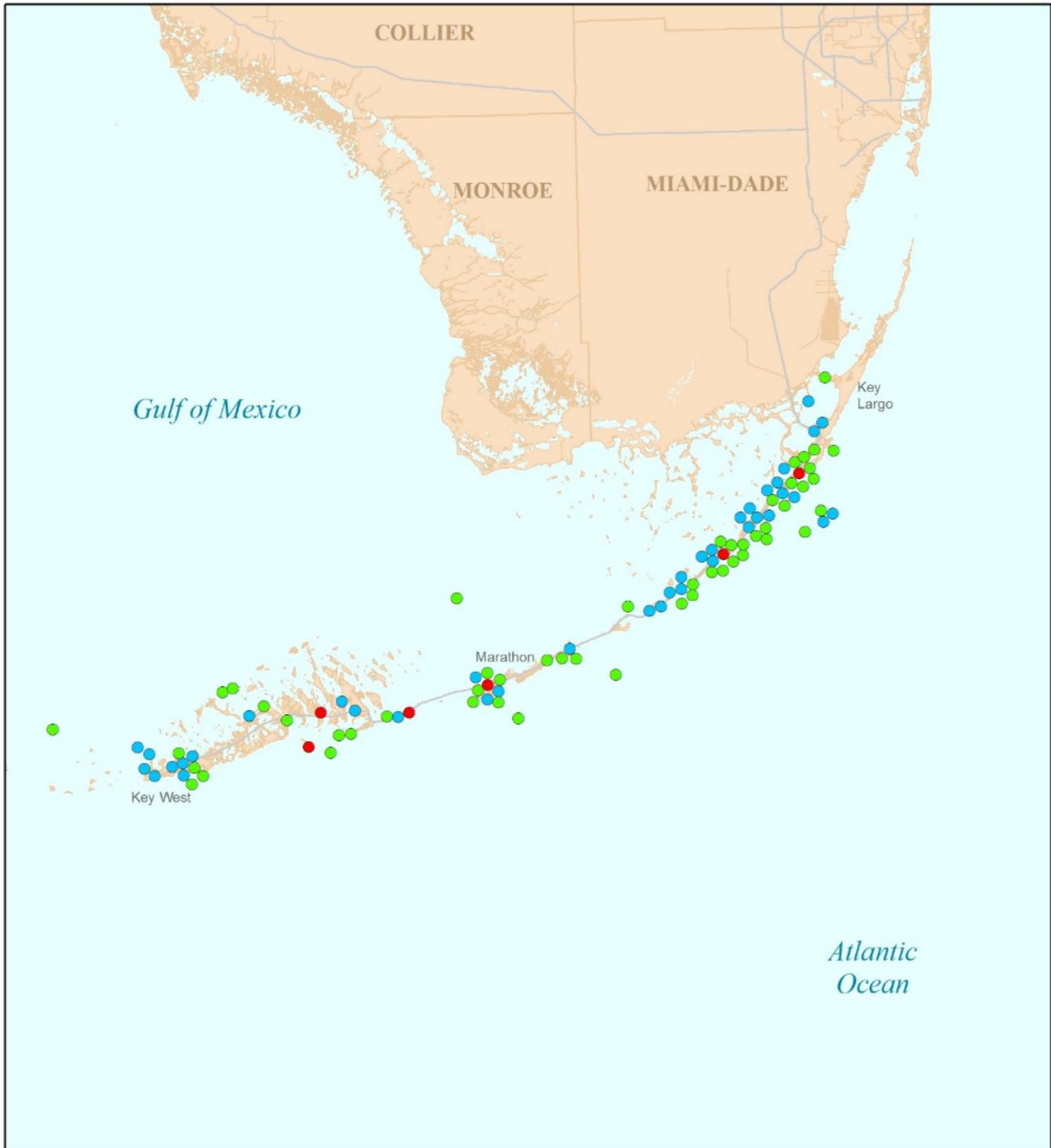
Legend

- Fatal Accident (37)
- Accident with Injury (179)
- Accident without Injury (267)



Map document
created by
FWC LE GIS





Known Locations of Accidents in Monroe County during 2017

- Legend**
- Fatal Accident (6)
 - Accident with Injury (39)
 - Accident without Injury (51)

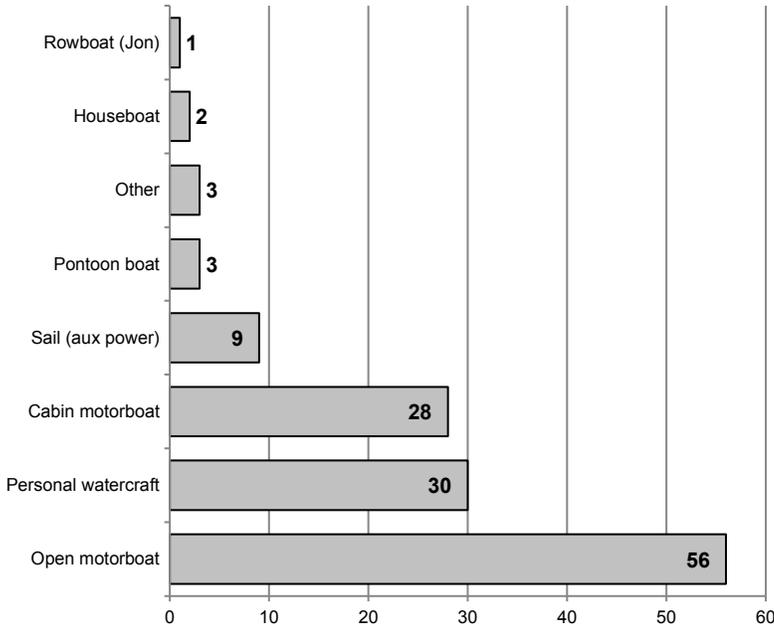


Map document
created by
FWC DLE GIS

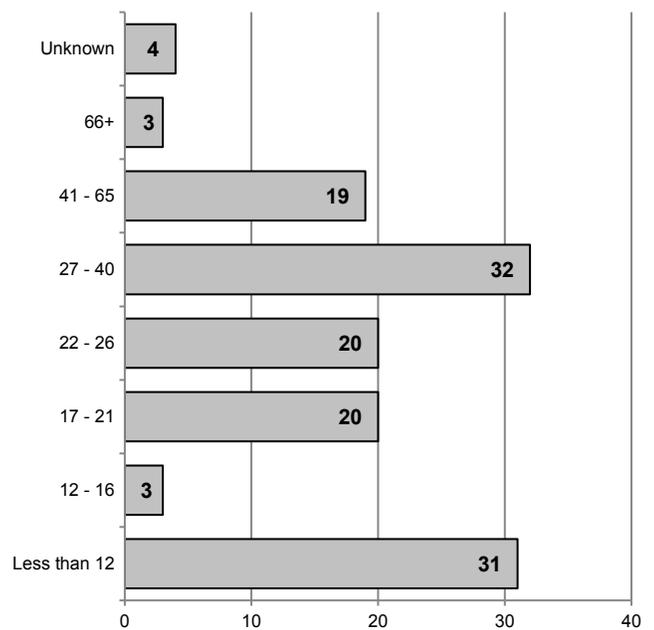


1. MONROE COUNTY

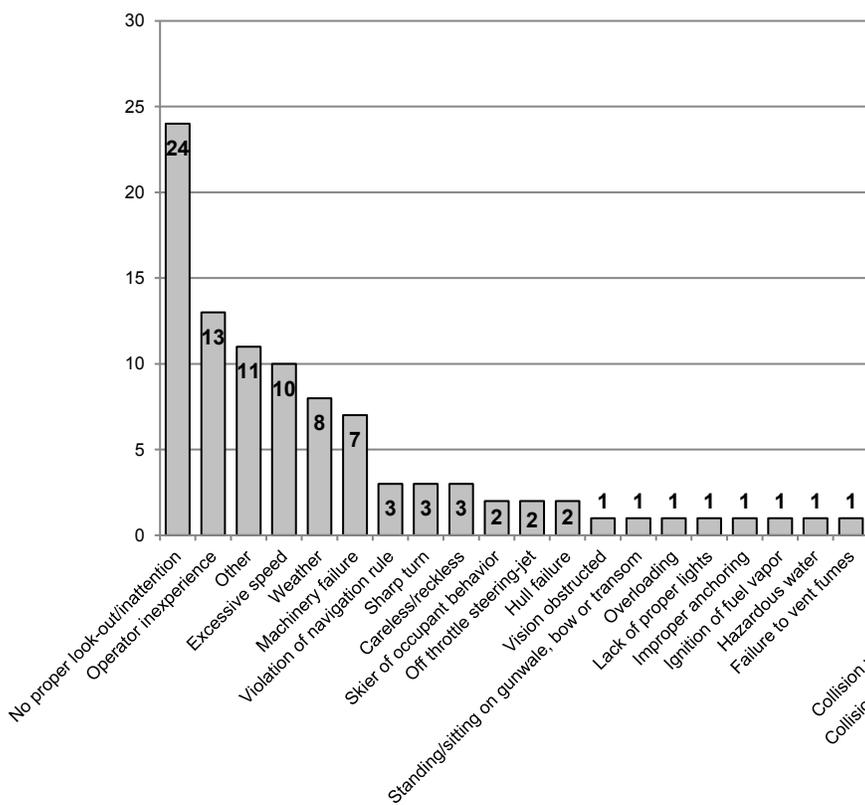
TYPE OF VESSEL



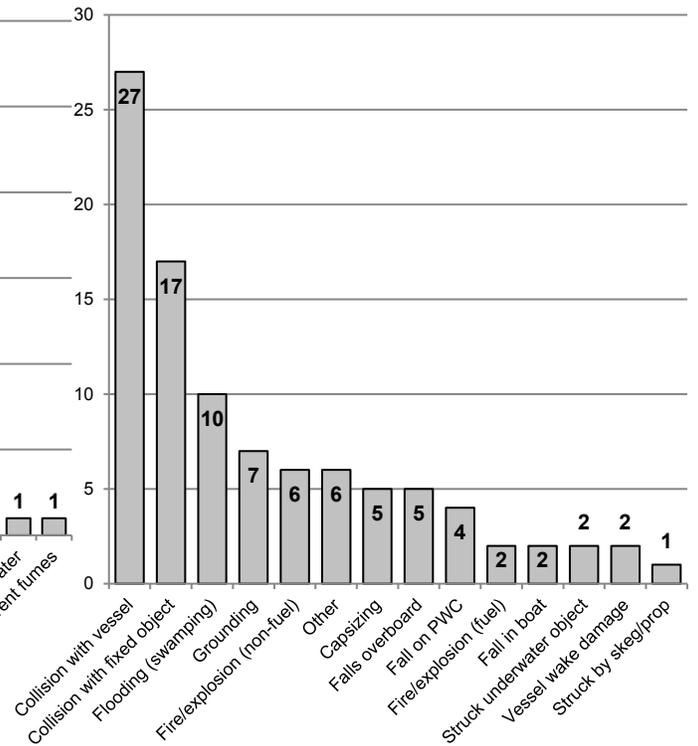
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

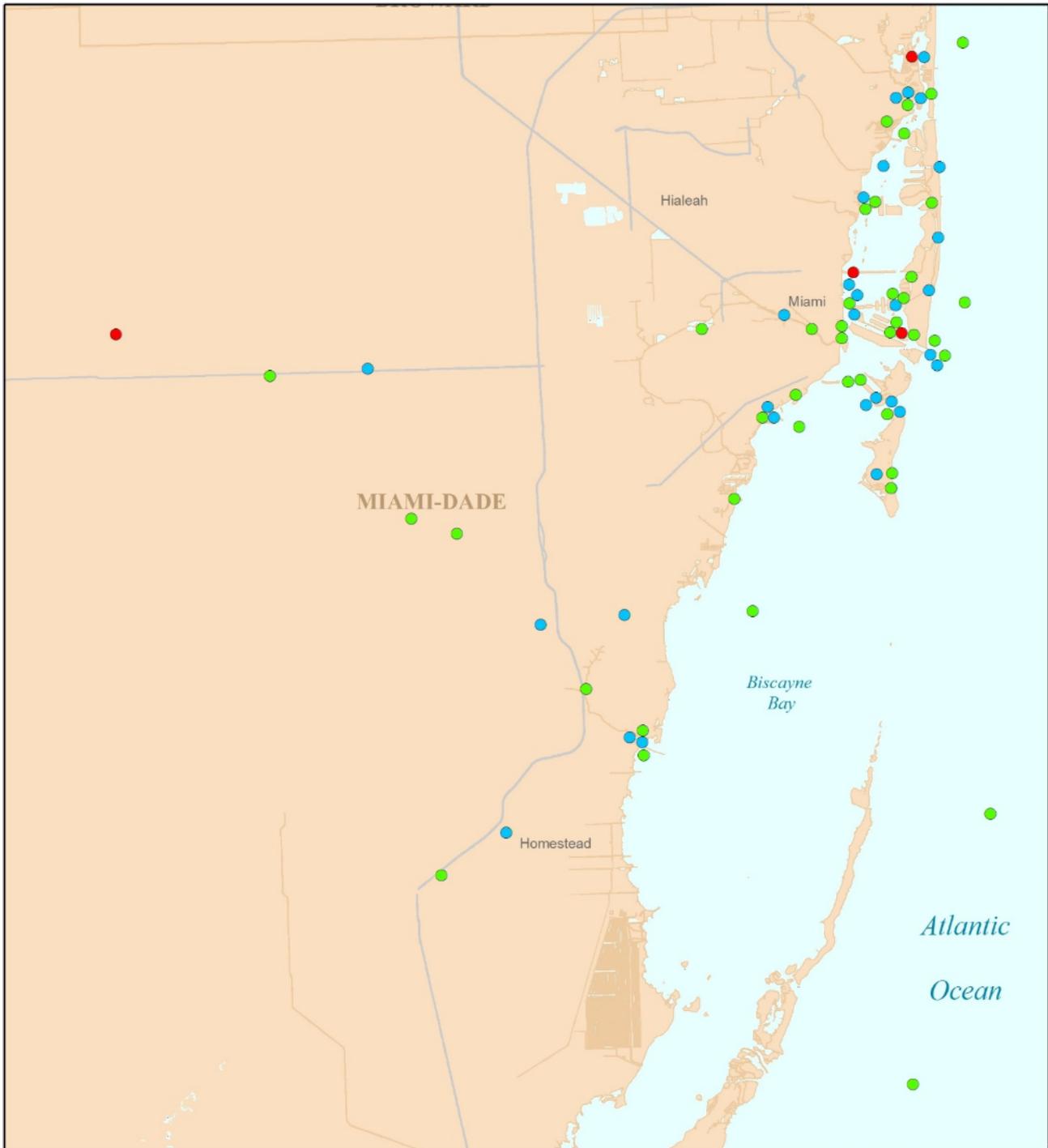


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Miami-Dade County during 2017

Legend

- Fatal Accident (5)
- Accident with Injury (29)
- Accident without Injury (42)

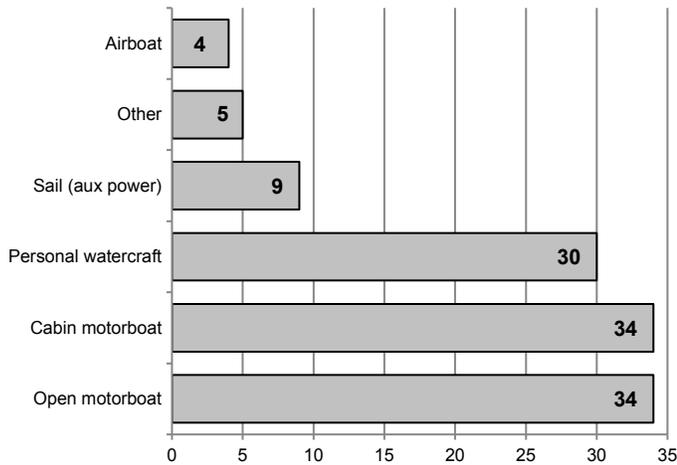


Map document
created by
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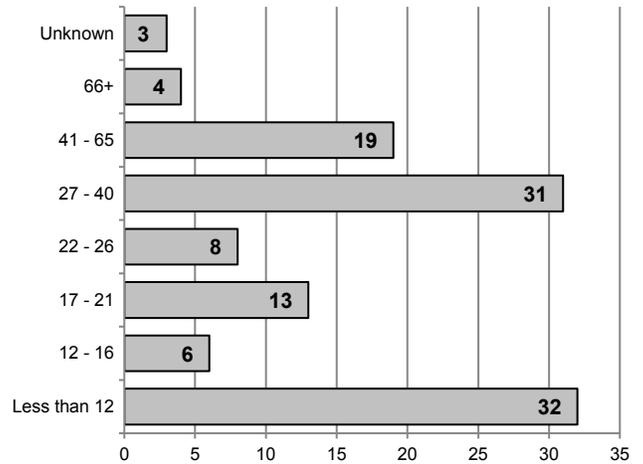


2. MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

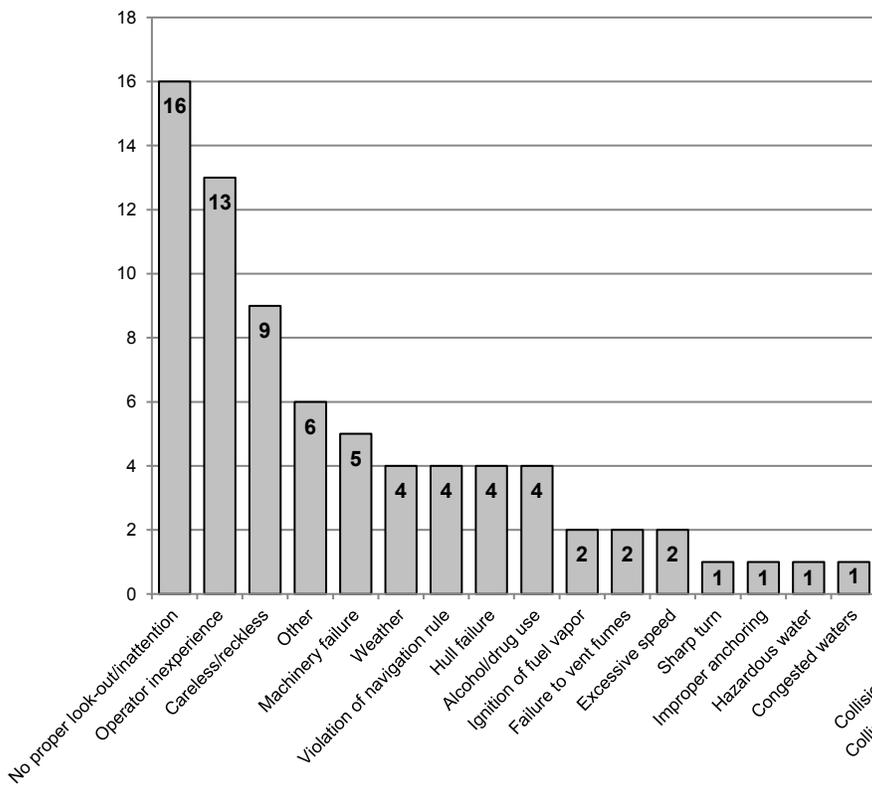
TYPE OF VESSEL



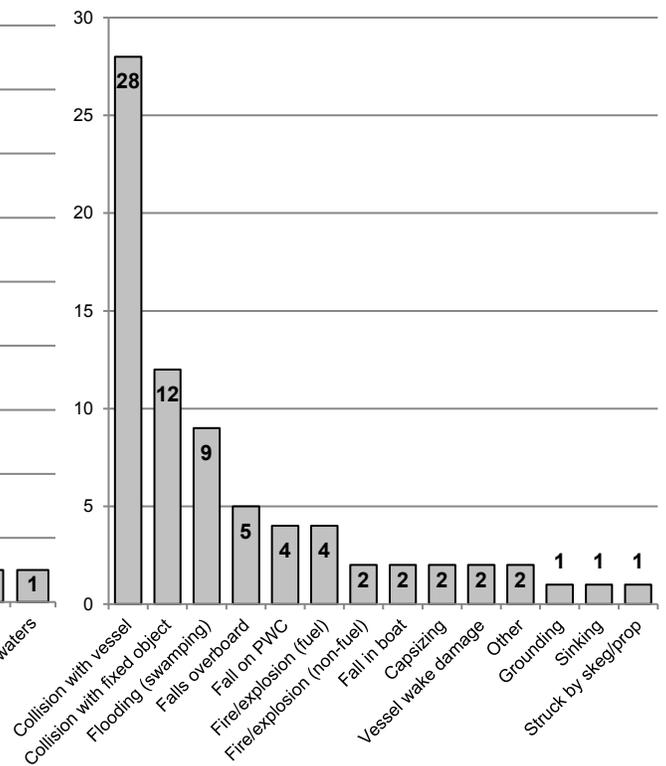
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

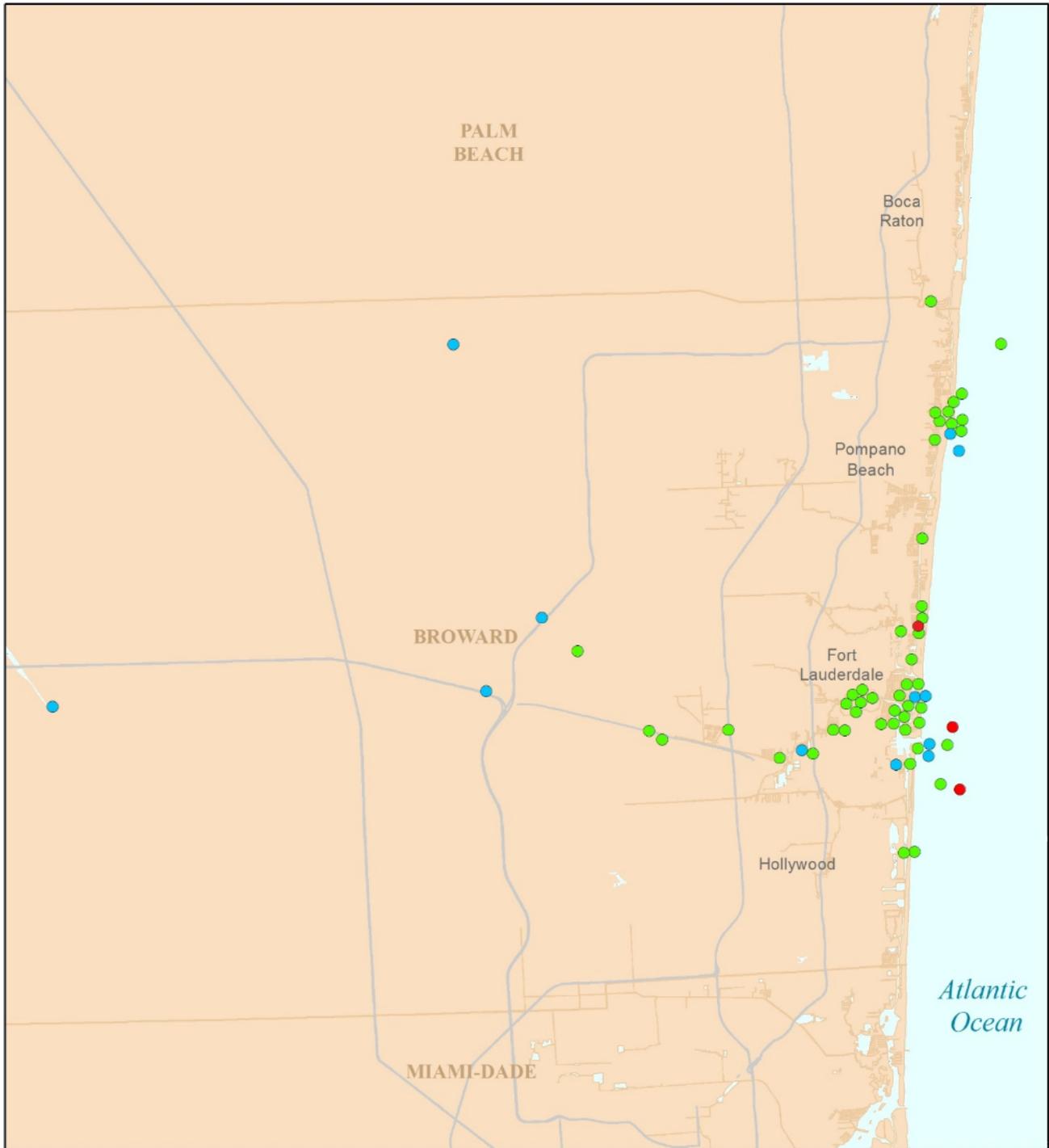


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Broward County during 2017

Legend

- Fatal Accident (3)
- Accident with Injury (12)
- Accident without Injury (48)

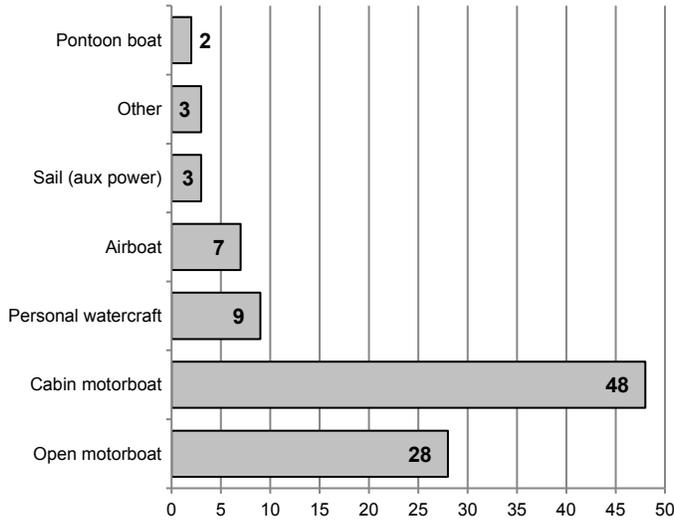


Map document
created by
FWC DLE GIS

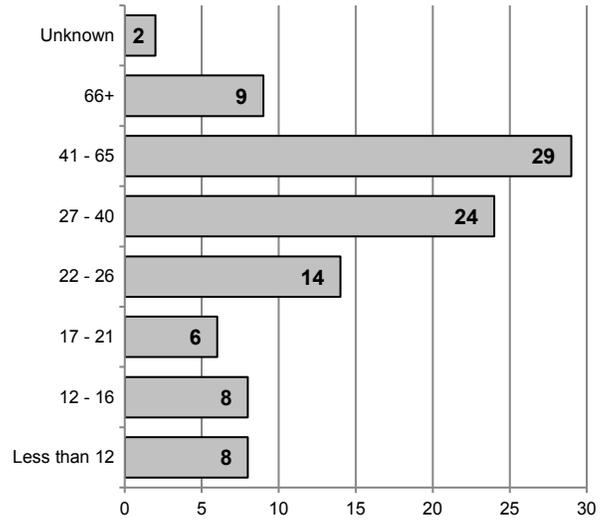


3. BROWARD COUNTY

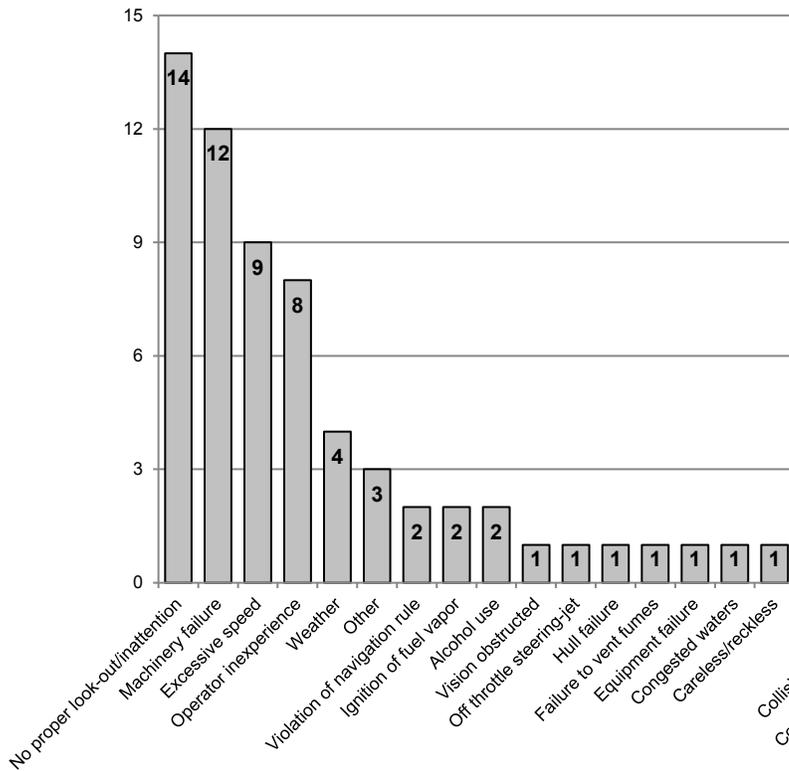
TYPE OF VESSEL



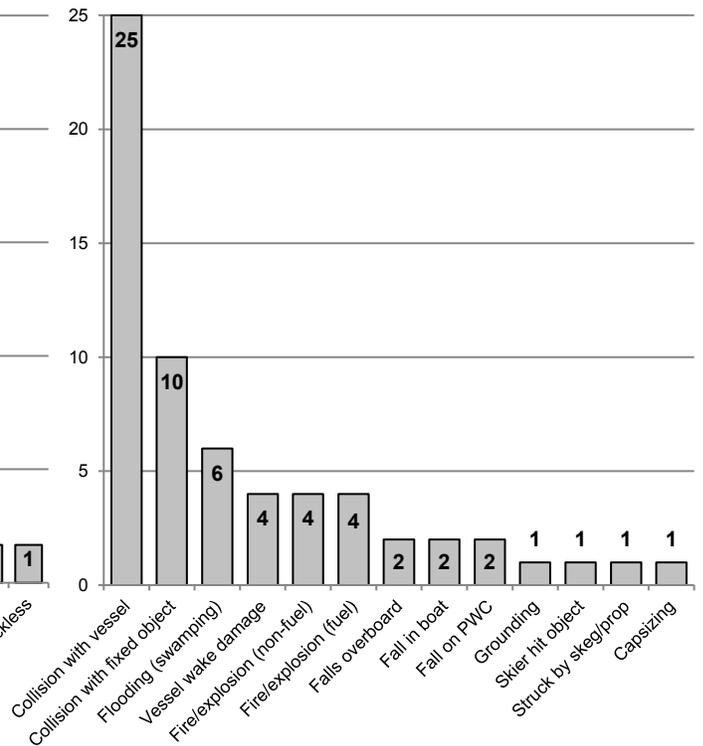
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

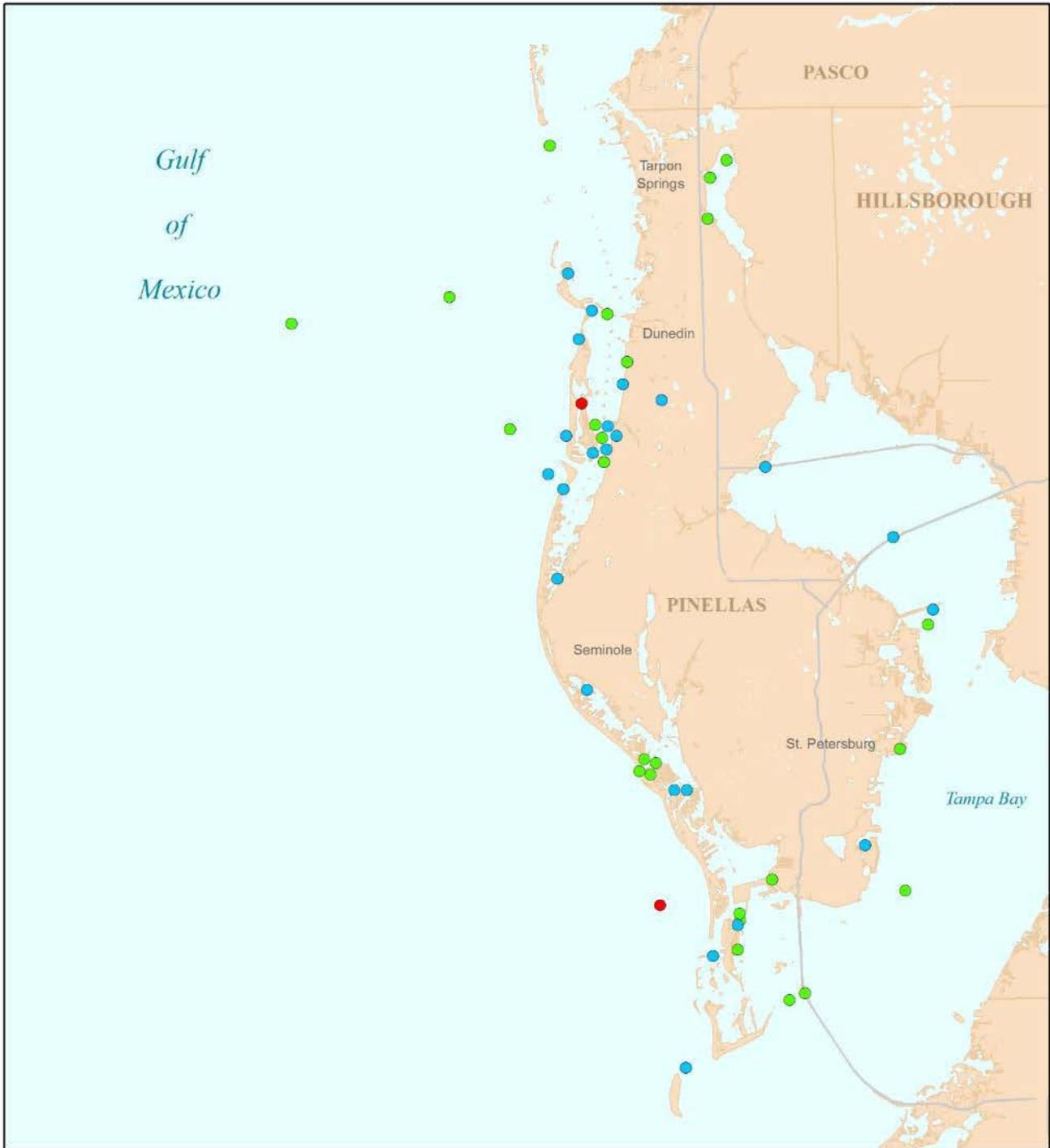


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Pinellas County during 2017

Legend

- Fatal Accident (2)
- Accident with Injury (20)
- Accident without Injury (23)

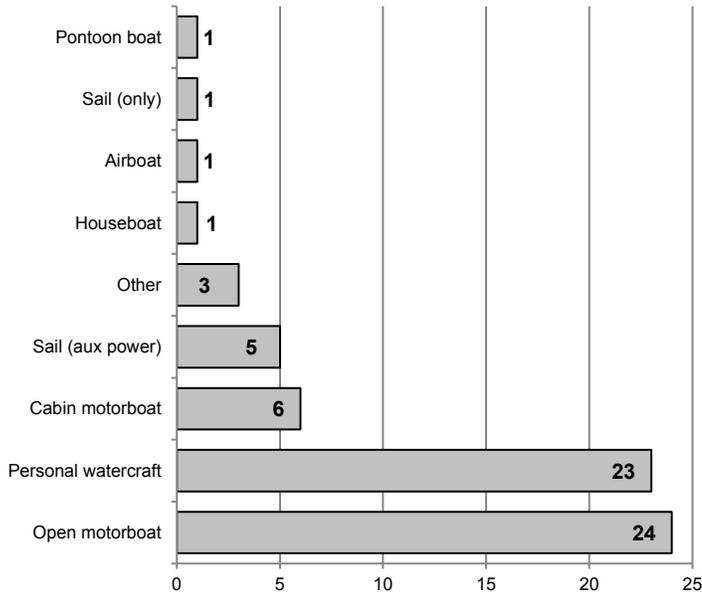


Map document
created by
FWC DLE GIS

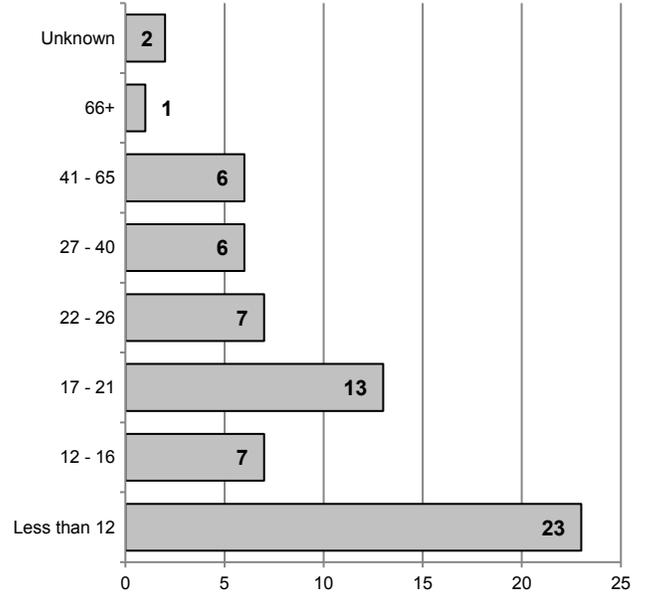


4. PINELLAS COUNTY

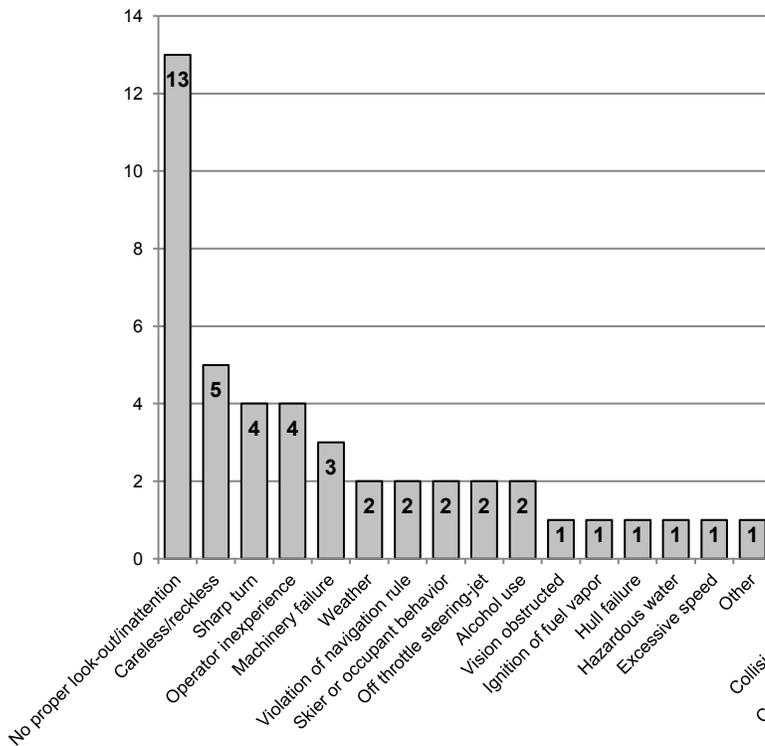
TYPE OF VESSEL



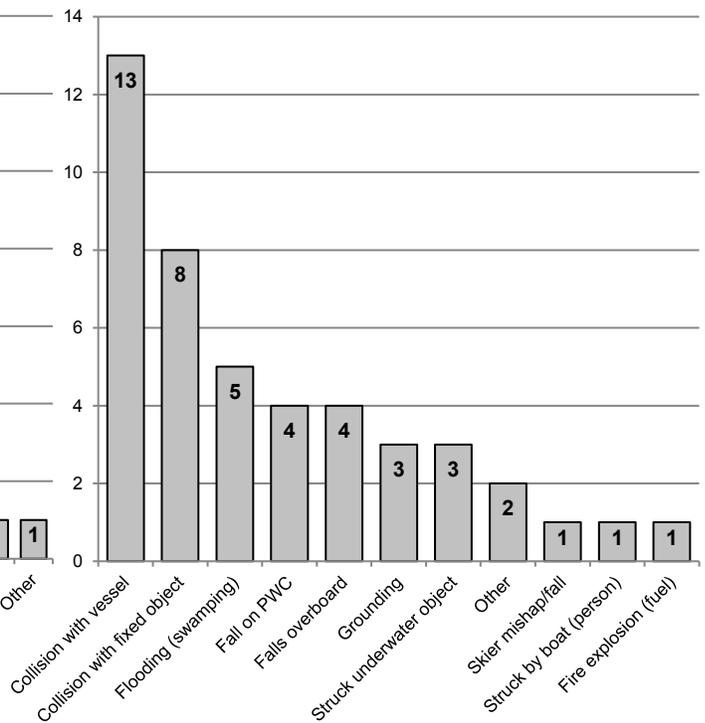
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)



PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Lee County during 2017

Legend

- Fatal Accident (9)
- Accident with Injury (14)
- Accident without Injury (20)

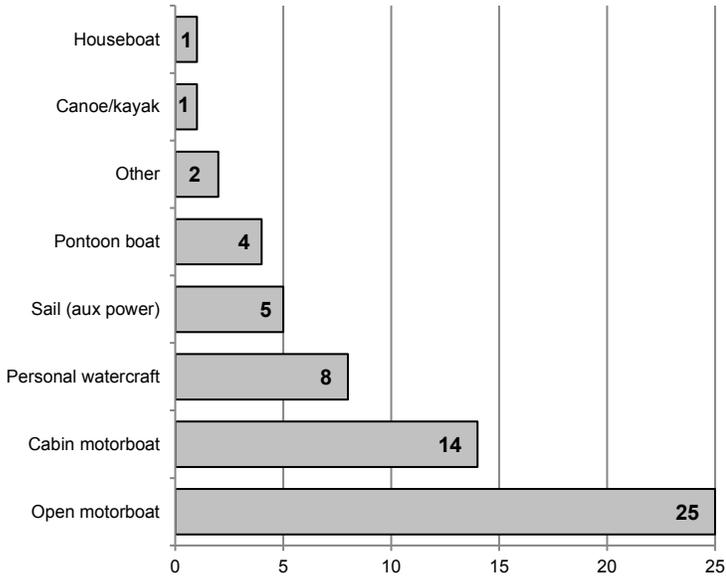


Map document
created by
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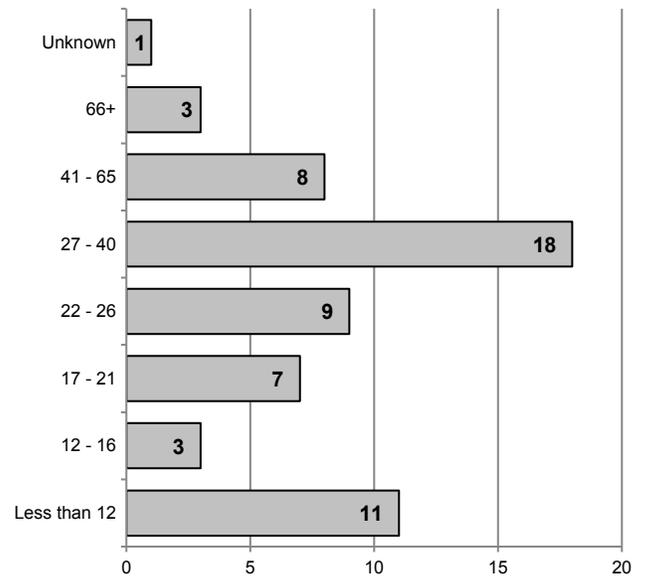


5. LEE COUNTY

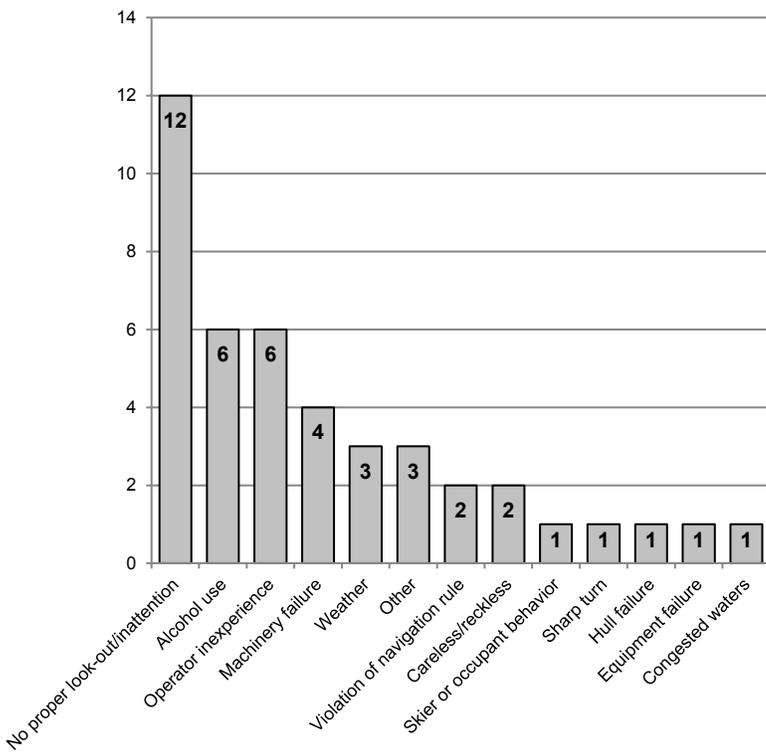
TYPE OF VESSEL



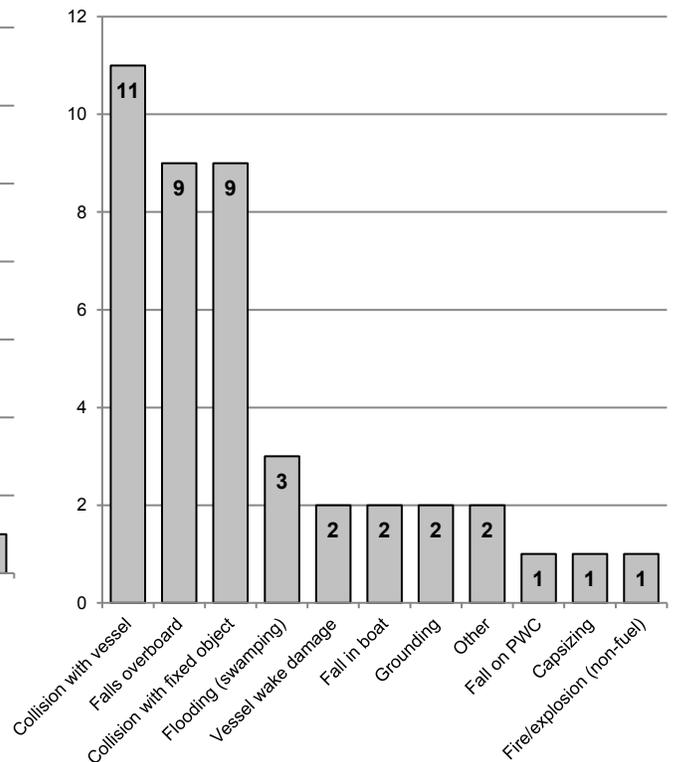
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

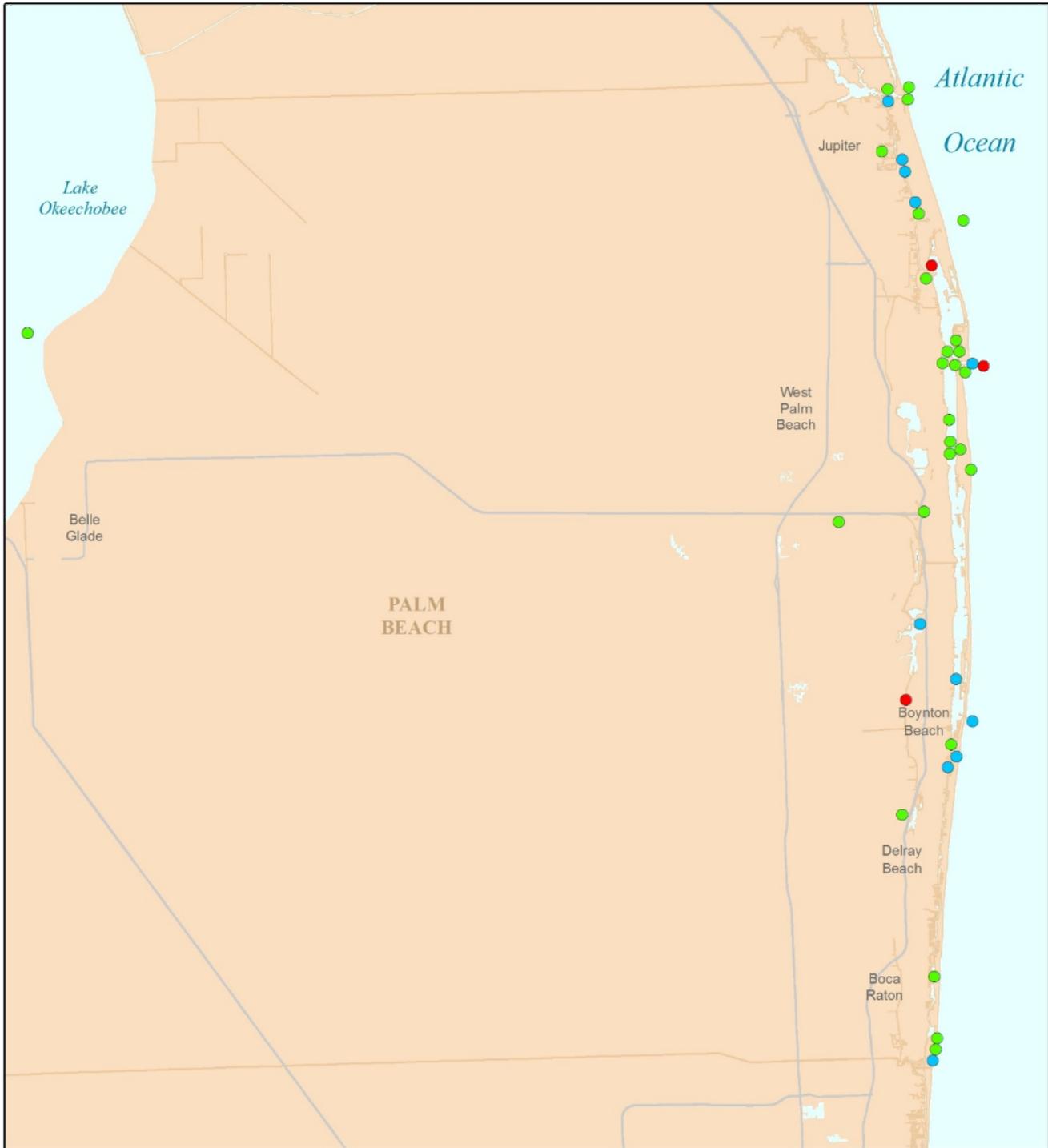


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Palm Beach County during 2017

Legend

- Fatal Accident (3)
- Accident with Injury (11)
- Accident without Injury (27)

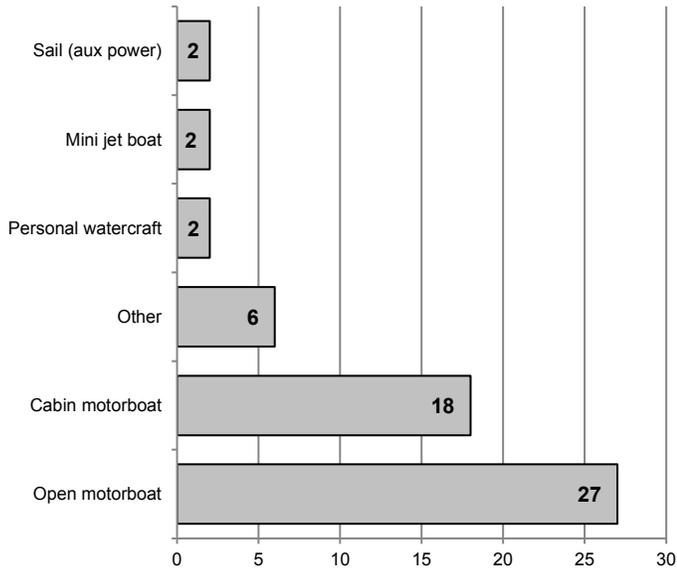


Map document
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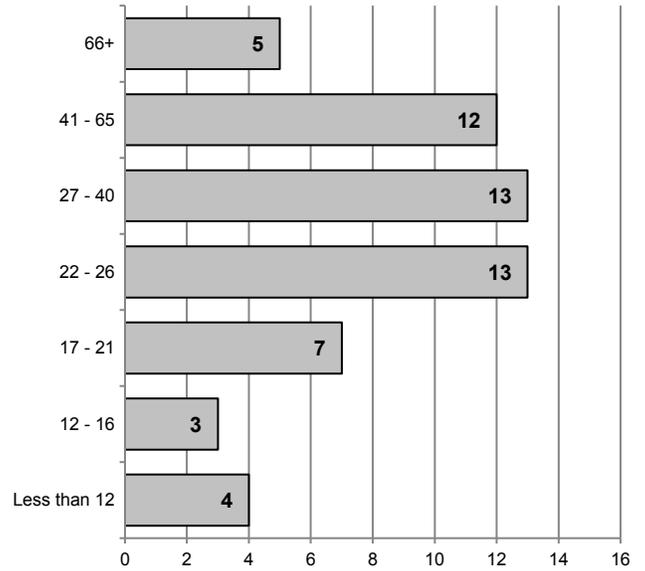


6. PALM BEACH COUNTY

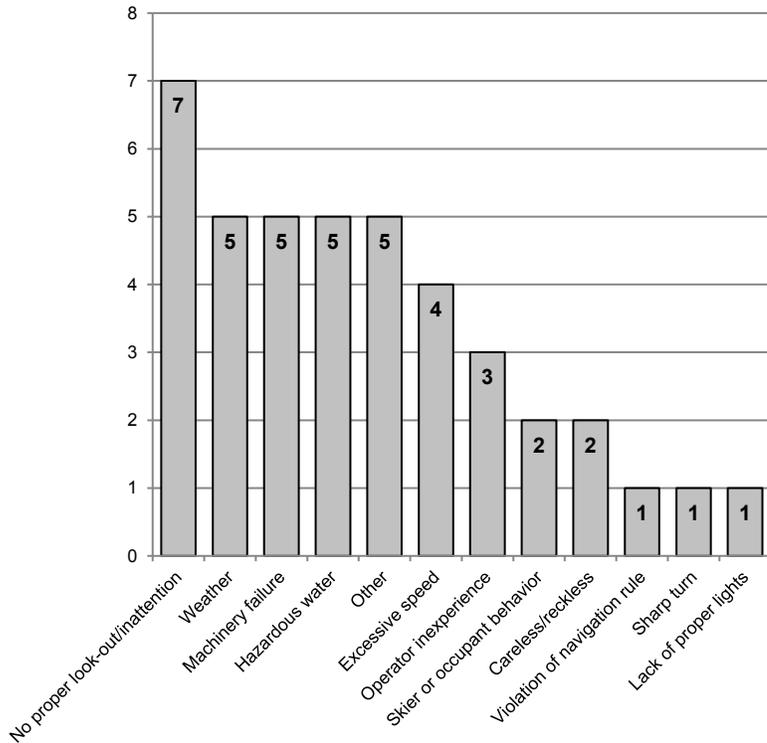
TYPE OF VESSEL



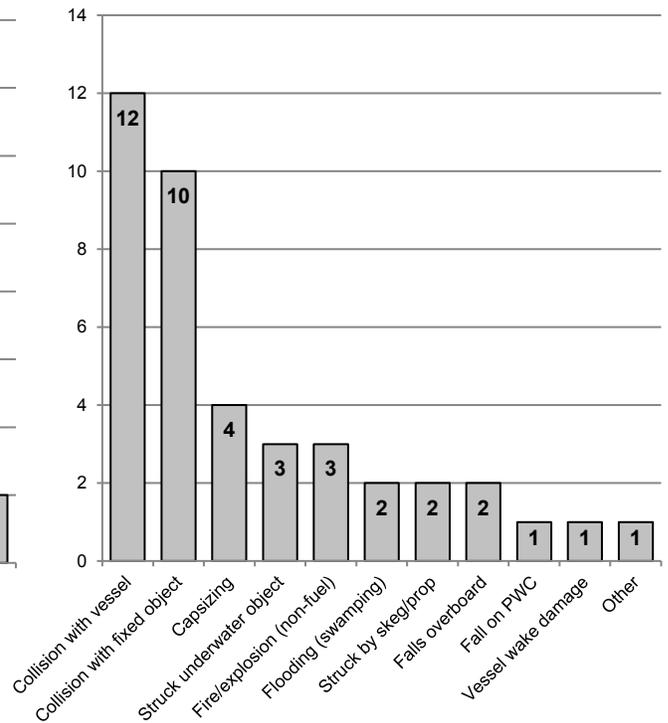
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

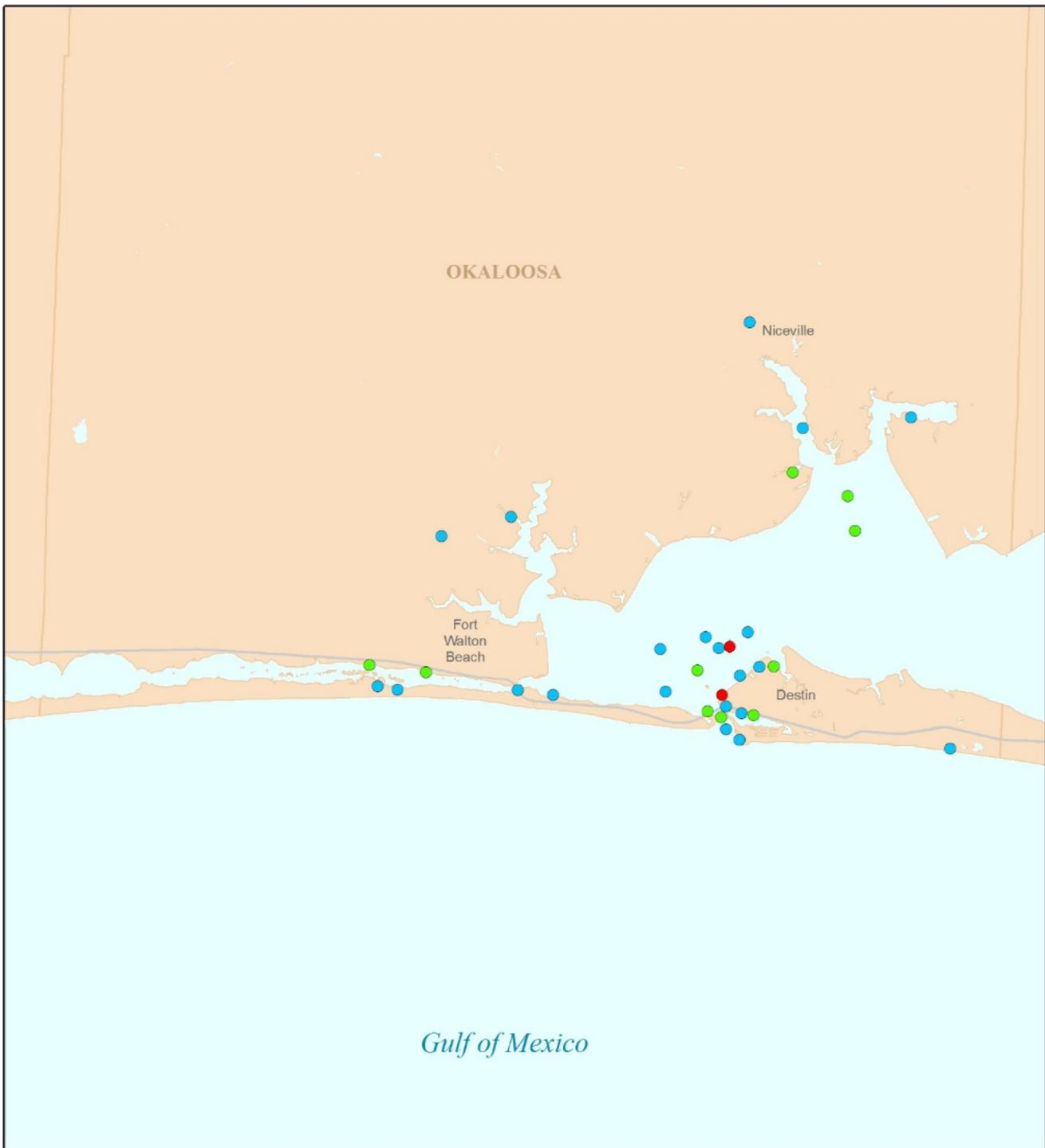


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Okaloosa County during 2017

Legend

- Fatal Accident (2)
- Accident with Injury (21)
- Accident without Injury (11)

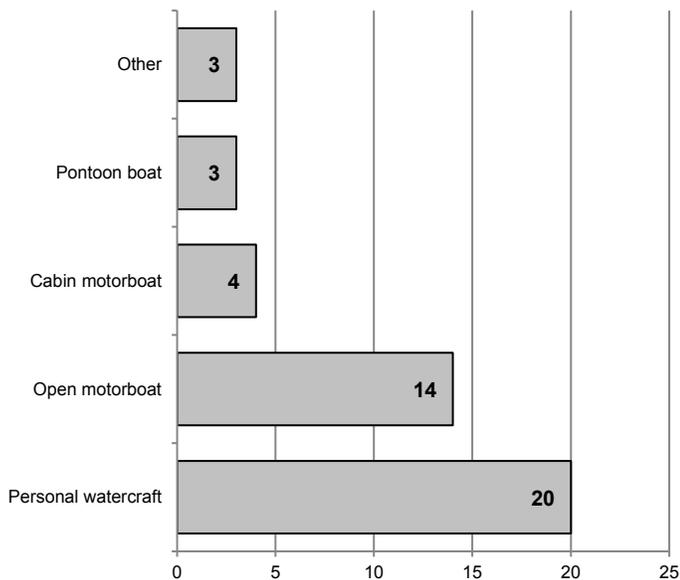


Map document
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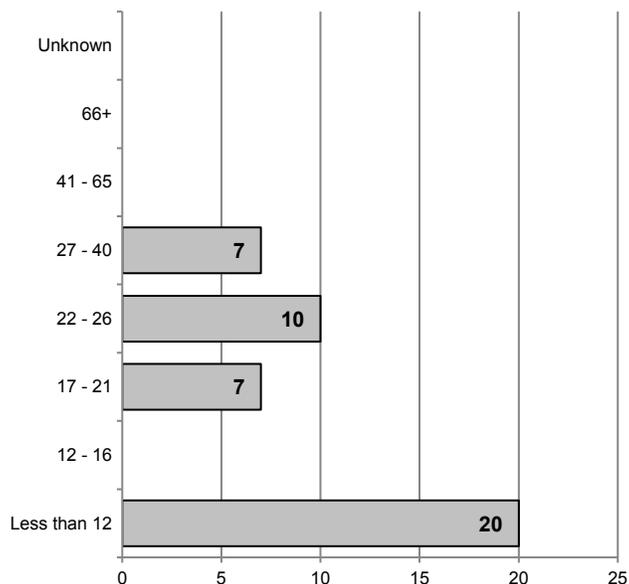


7. OKALOOSA COUNTY

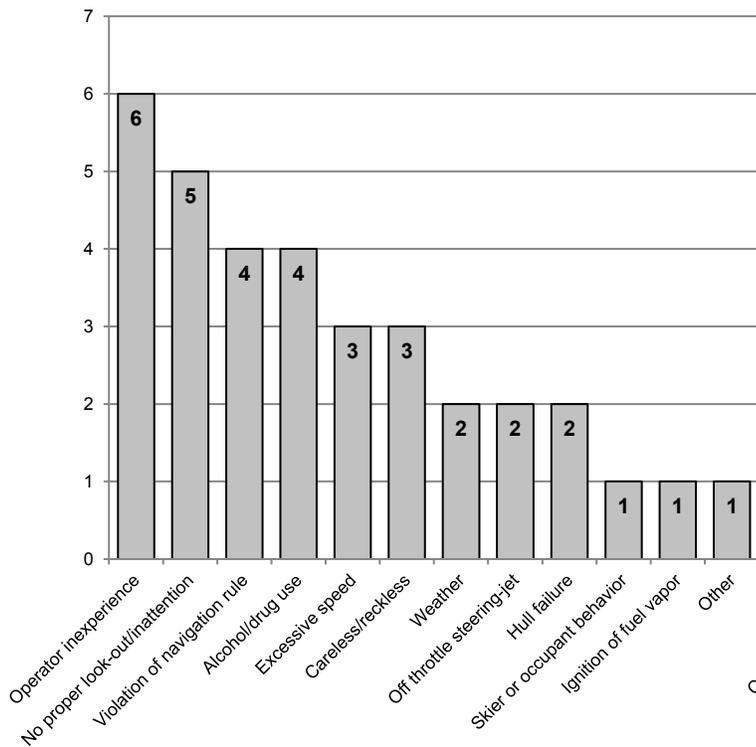
TYPE OF VESSEL



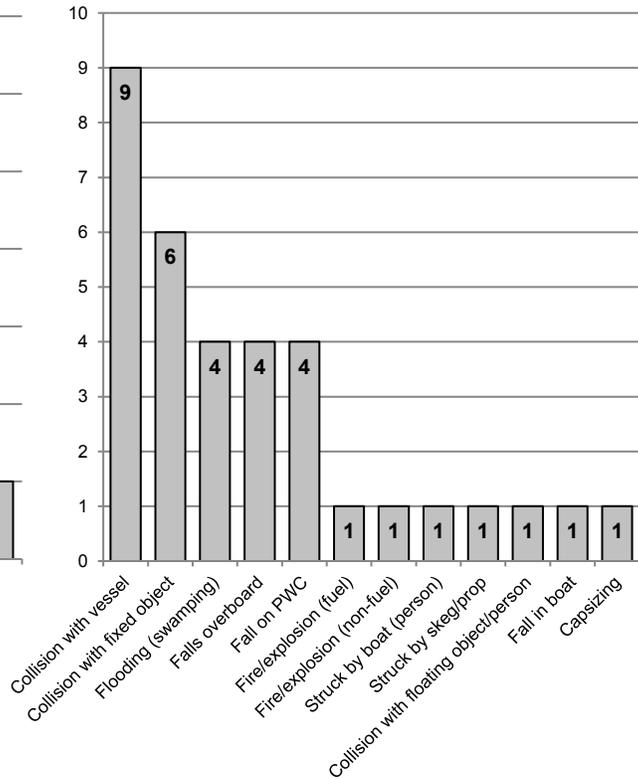
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

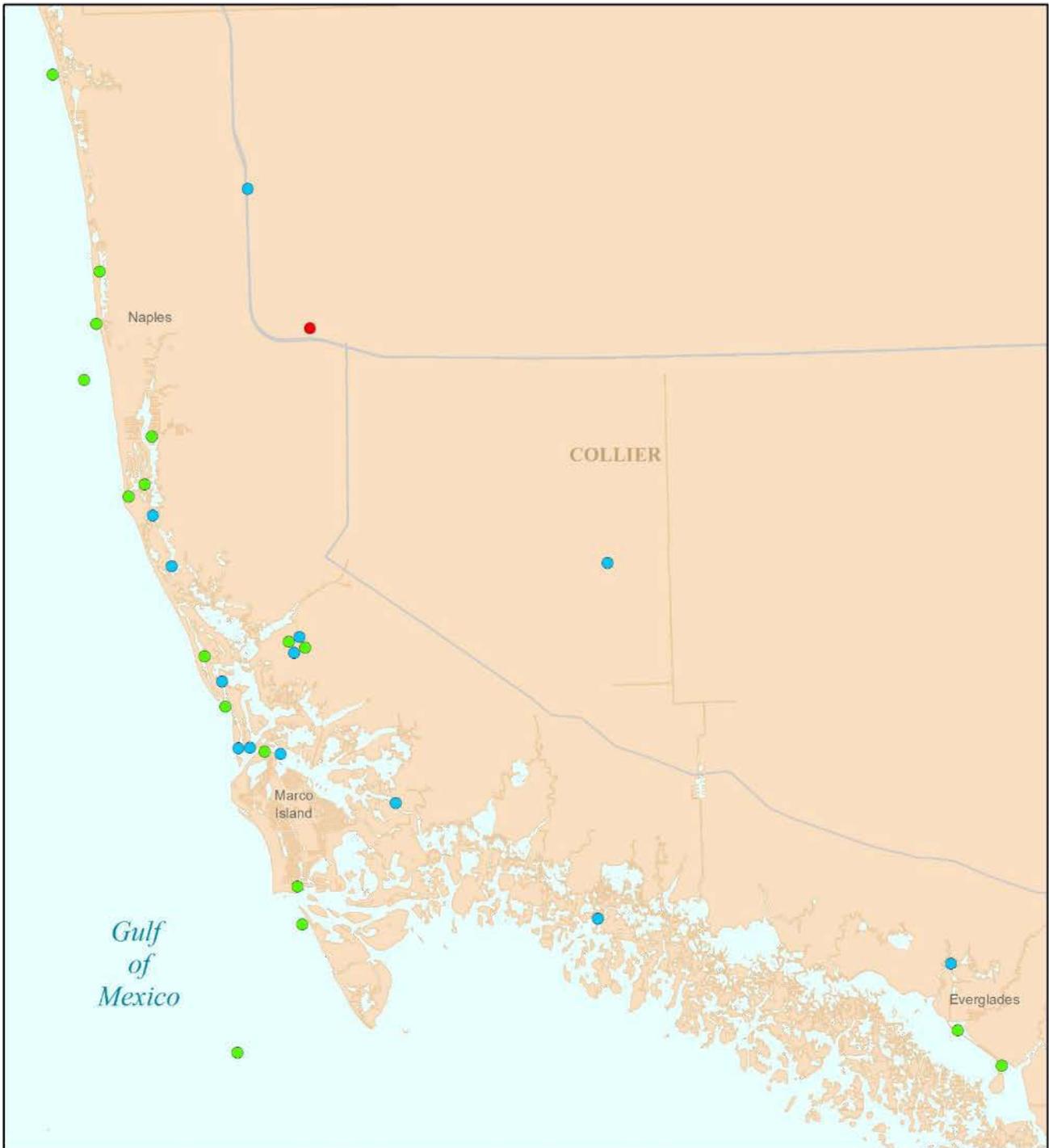


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Collier County during 2017

Legend

- Fatal Accident (1)
- Accident with Injury (13)
- Accident without Injury (17)

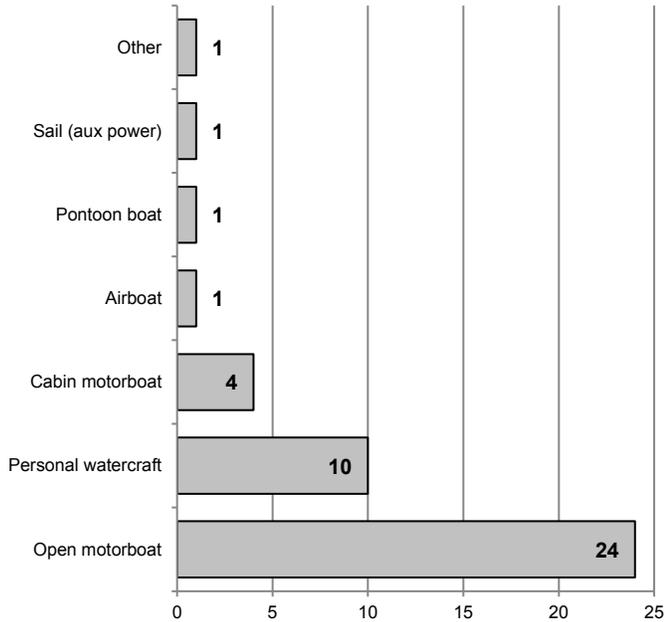


Map document
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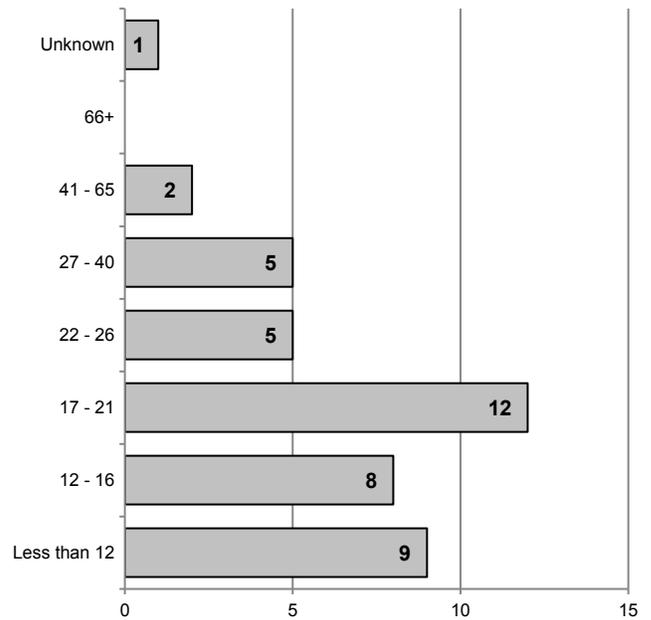


8. COLLIER COUNTY

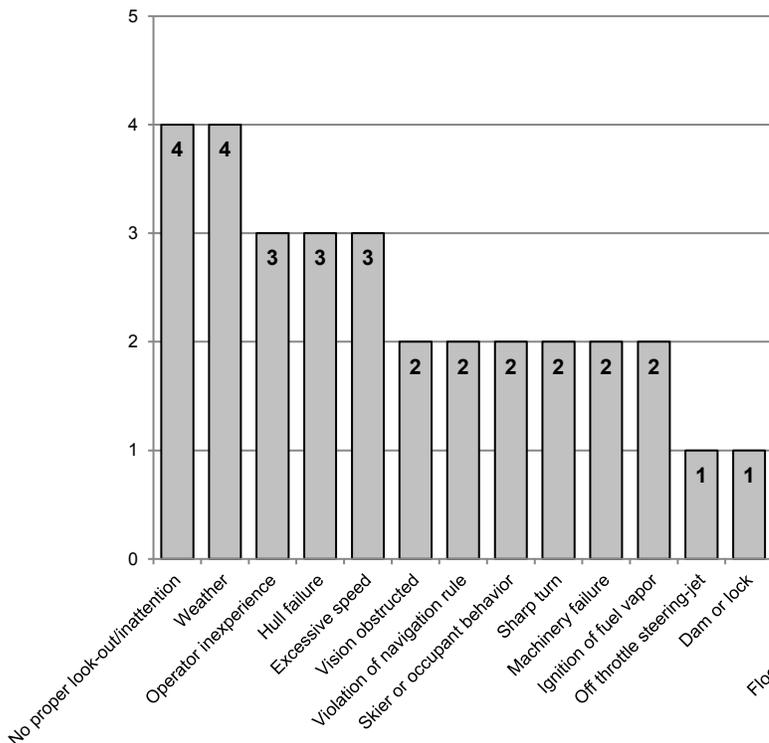
TYPE OF VESSEL



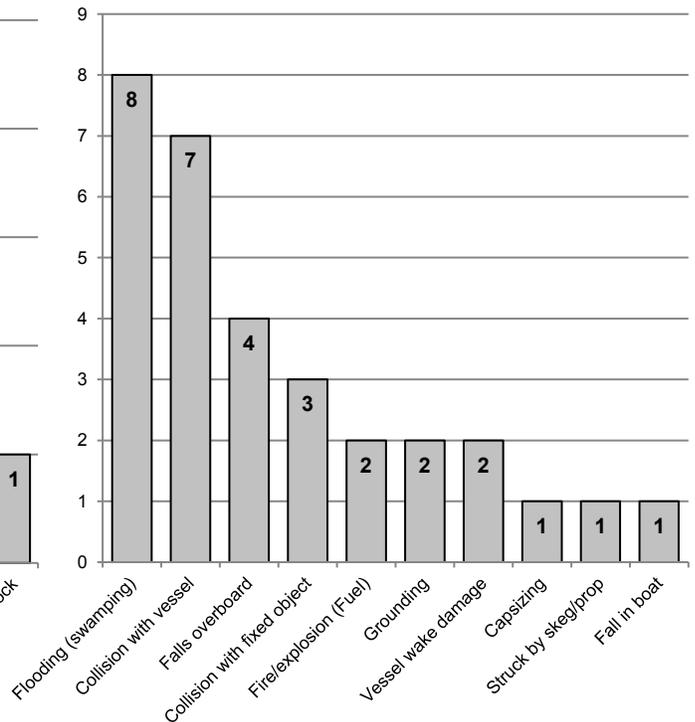
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)



PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT



Trend Analysis



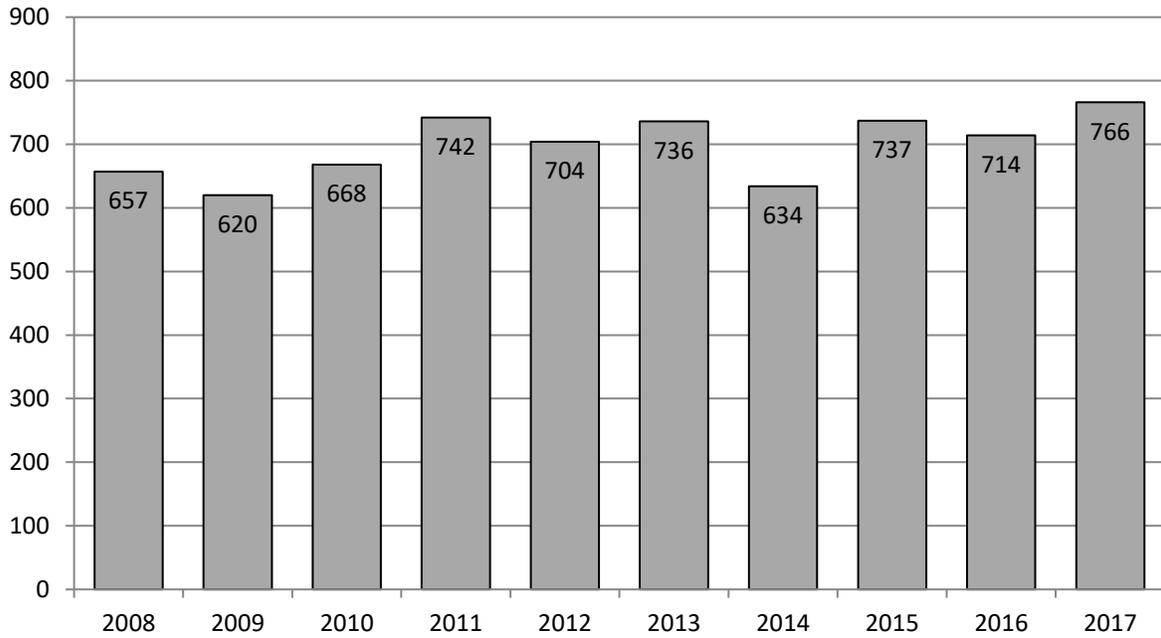
Trend Analysis photo detail

Cover Photos: (Courtesy of FWC)

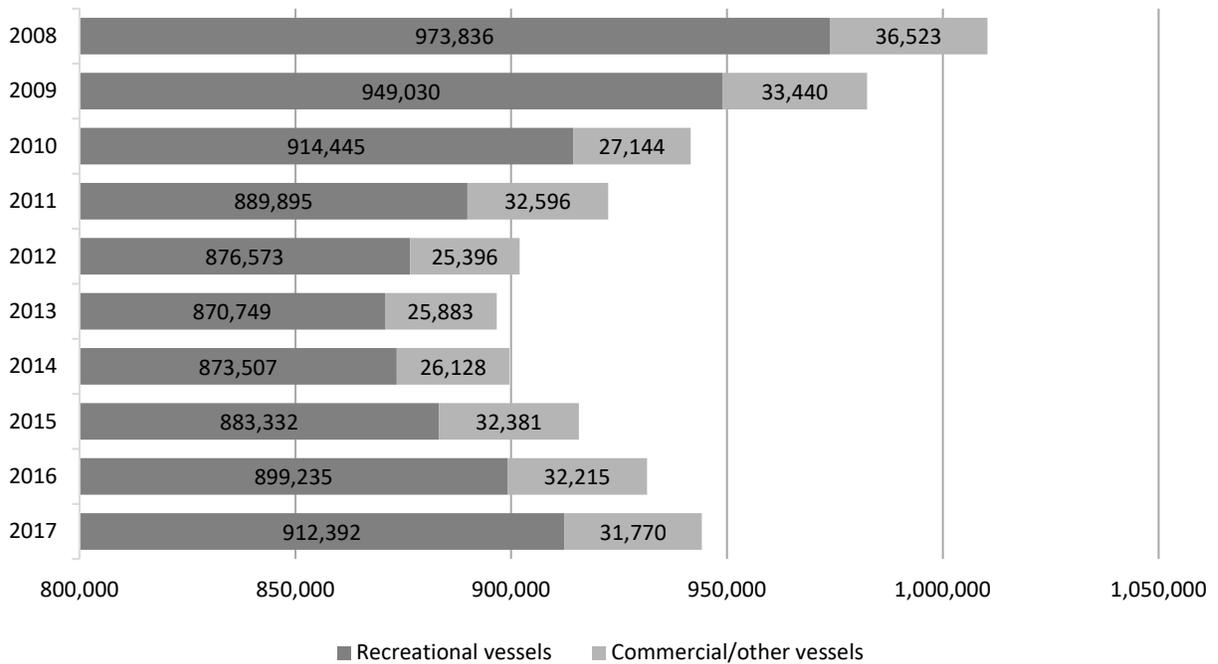
Officers investigating boating accidents.

2017 TREND ANALYSIS

REPORTABLE ACCIDENTS 2008-2017

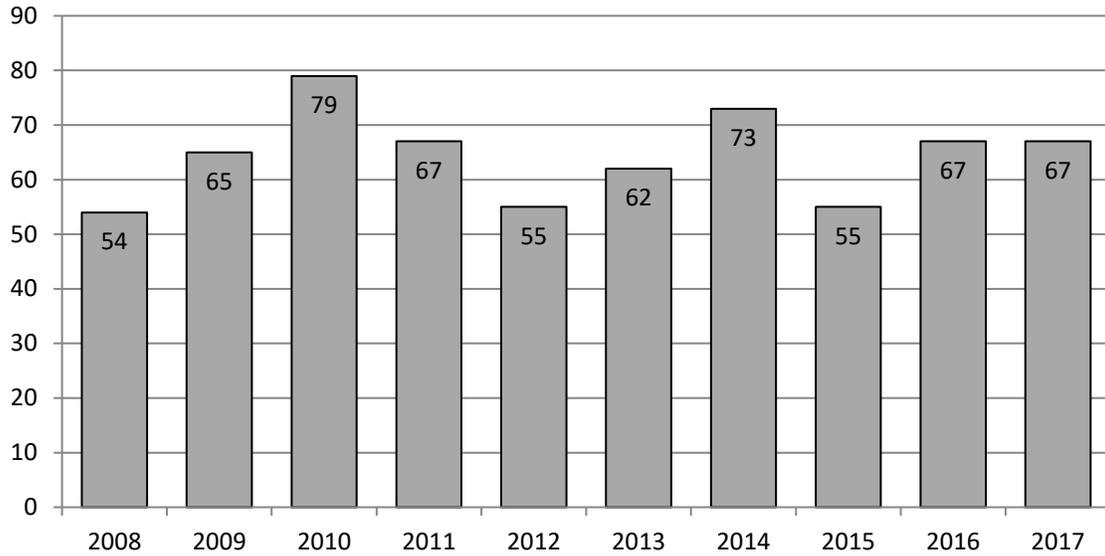


VESSEL REGISTRATION 2008-2017

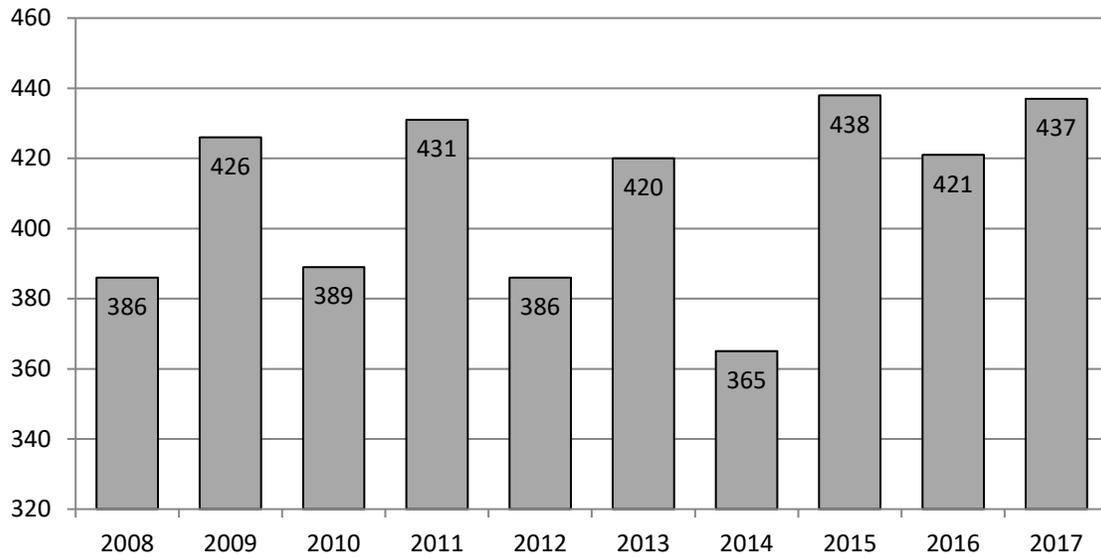


2017 TREND ANALYSIS

FATALITIES 2008-2017

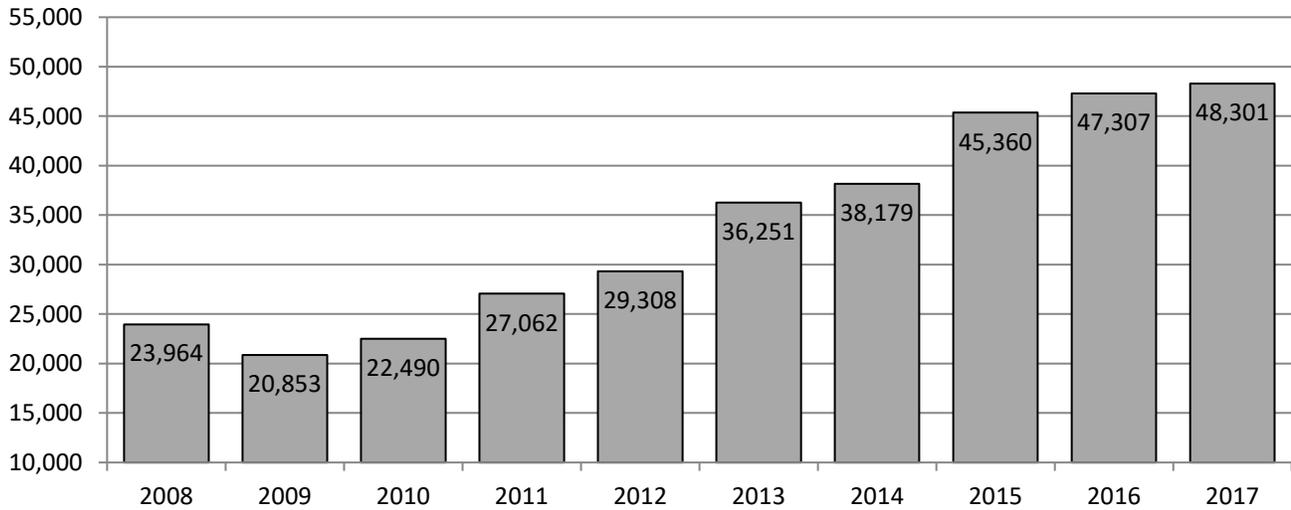


INJURIES 2008-2017

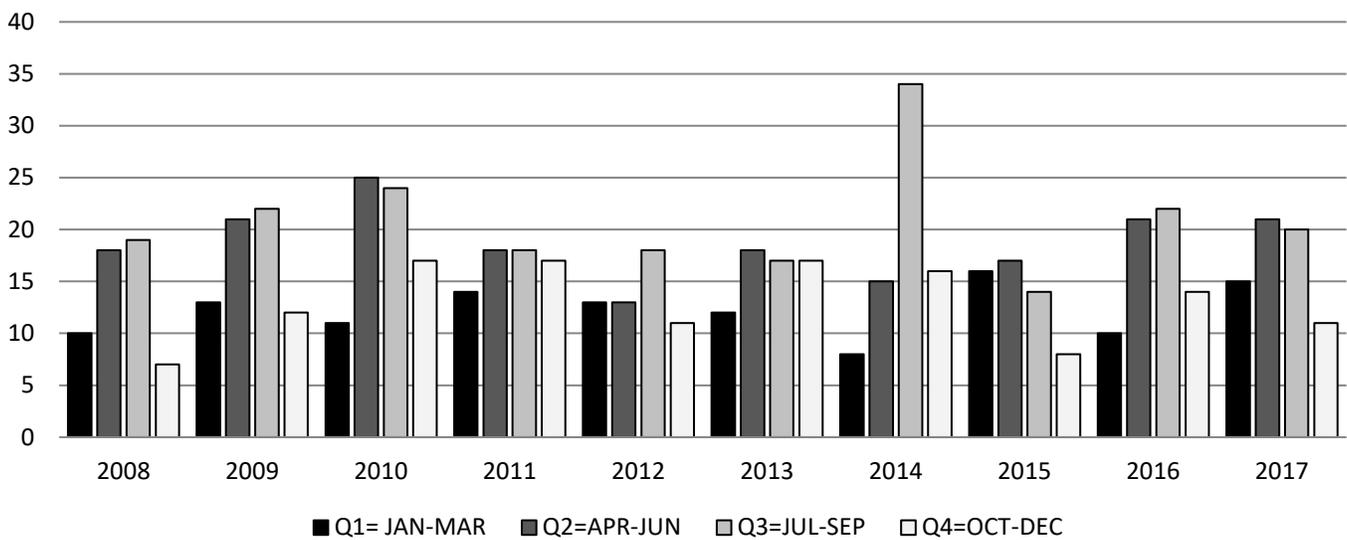


2017 TREND ANALYSIS

BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION I.D. CARDS ISSUED 2008-2017

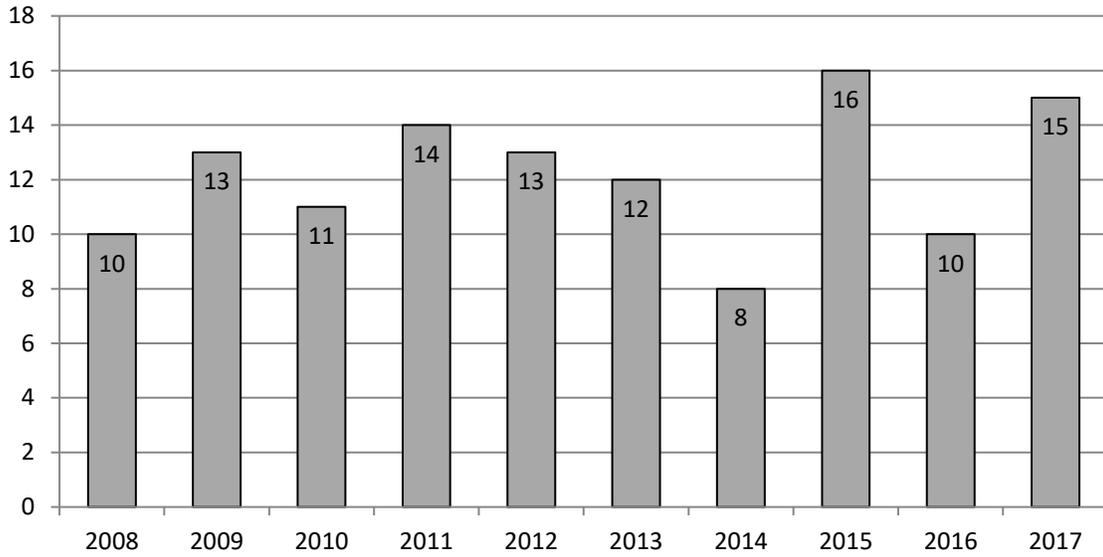


FATALITIES BY QUARTER 2008-2017



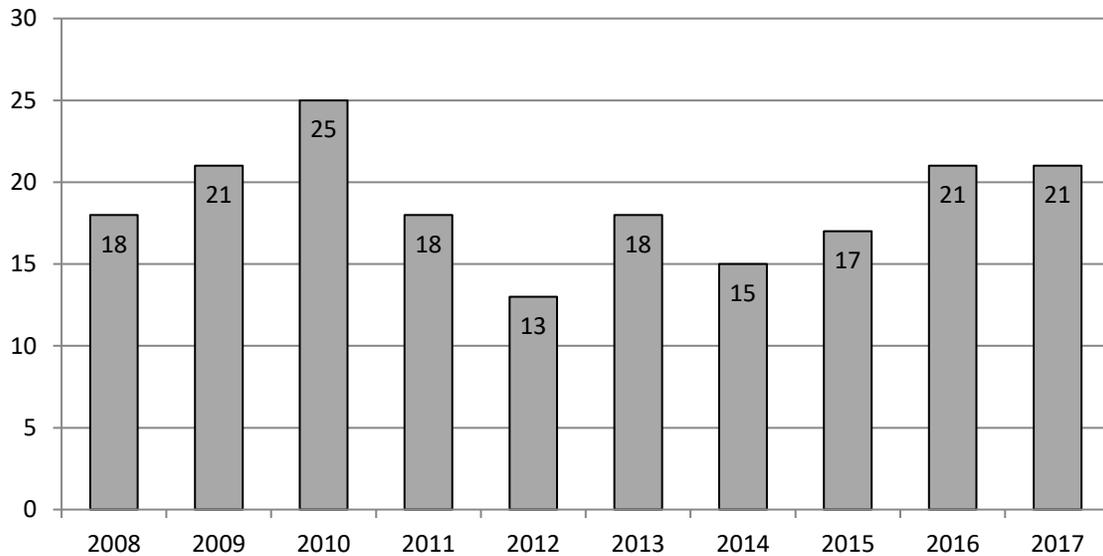
2017 TREND ANALYSIS

QUARTER 1 FATALITIES



*Q1 = JAN - MAR

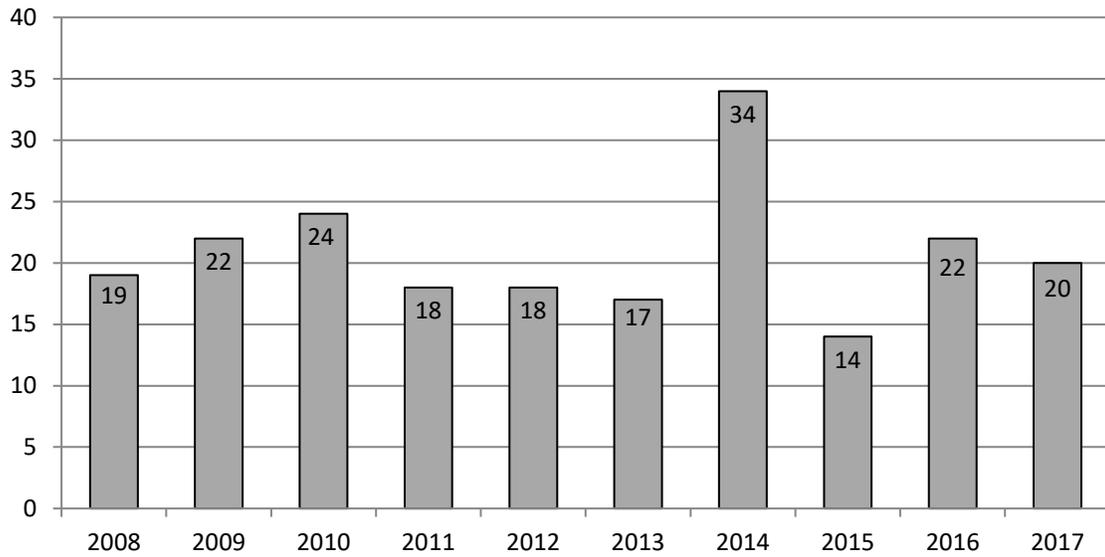
QUARTER 2 FATALITIES



*Q2 = APR - JUN

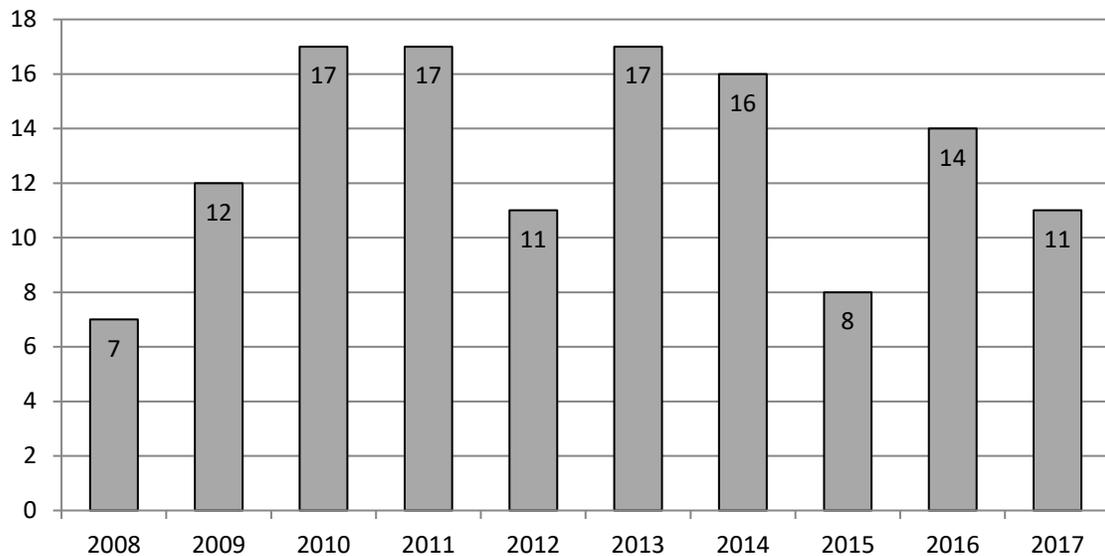
2017 TREND ANALYSIS

QUARTER 3 FATALITIES



*Q3 = JUL - SEP

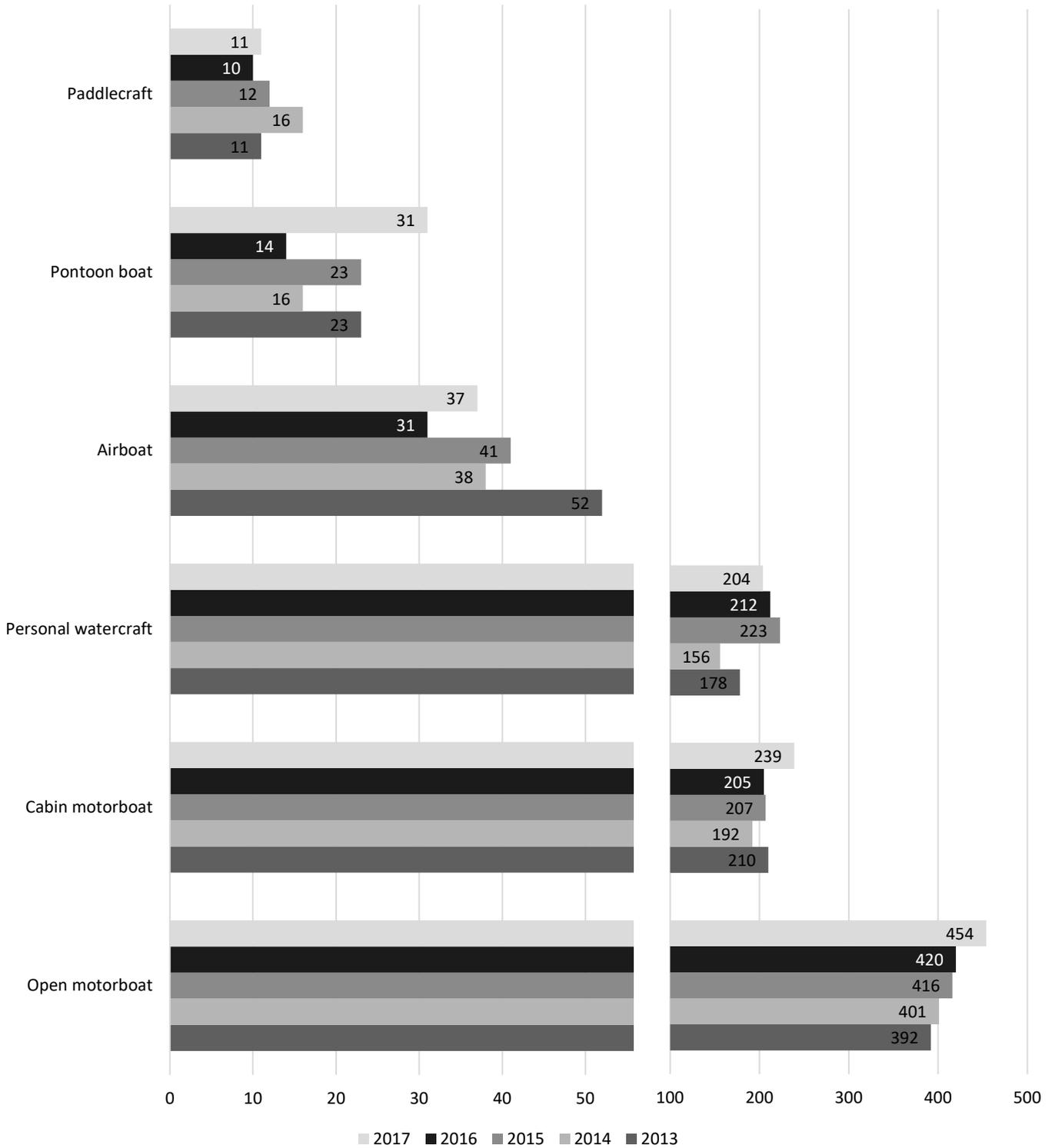
QUARTER 4 FATALITIES



*Q4 = OCT - DEC

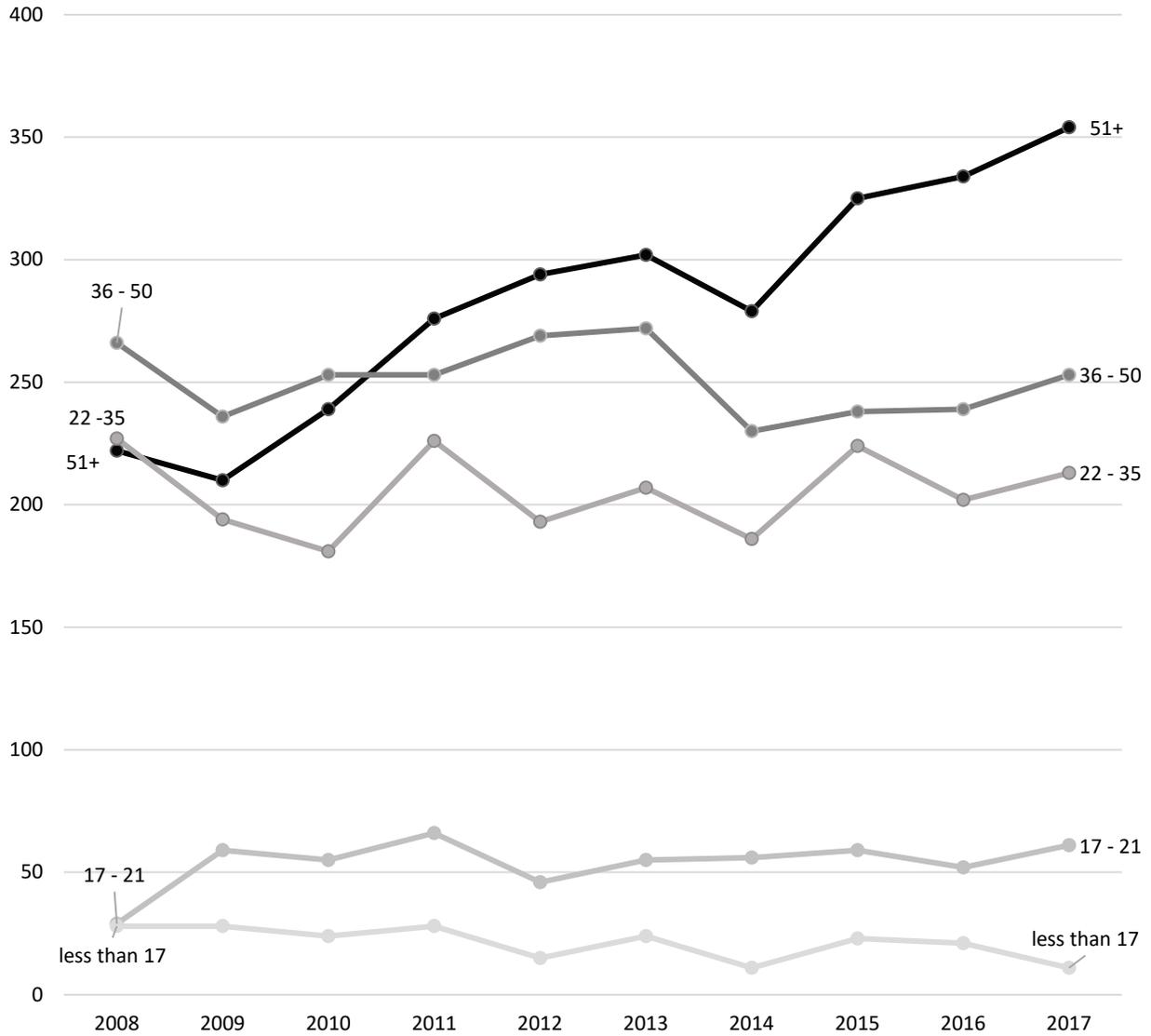
2017 TREND ANALYSIS

VESSEL TYPES 2013 - 2017



2017 TREND ANALYSIS

OPERATOR BY AGE 2008-2017



Glossary



Glossary photo detail

Cover Photos: (Courtesy of FWC)

Top Picture

In March 2017, Investigator Scott Sumpter used a kayak to rescue an elderly man that had been clinging to his overturned vessel for hours.

Bottom Picture

Lieutenant Thomas VanTrees and Officer Michael Bibeau on water patrol during the College National Championship Game being held in Tampa.

GLOSSARY OF DEFINITIONS

ALCOHOL/DRUG RELATED – Refers to any accidents in which alcohol/drug use may have been a contributing factor, whether or not legally impaired.

AT ANCHOR – Held in place in the water by an anchor, includes “moored” to a buoy or anchored vessel and “dragging anchor.”

BOATING ACCIDENT - A collision, accident, or casualty involving a vessel, in or upon, or entering into or exiting from the water, includes capsizing, collision with another vessel or object, sinking, personal injury, death or disappearance of any person from onboard under circumstances which indicate the possibility of death or injury or property damage to any vessel or dock.

CABIN MOTORBOAT - Motorboats with a cabin which can be completely closed by means of doors or hatches. Large motorboats with cabins, even though referred to as yachts, are considered to be cabin motorboats.

CAPSIZING - Overturning of a vessel.

CARELESS OPERATION – Operation of a vessel in a manner that is not reasonable and prudent, having no regard for other waterborne traffic, posted speed and wake restrictions, and all other attendant circumstances so as not to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person.

COLLISION WITH ANOTHER VESSEL - Any striking together of two or more vessels, regardless of operation at time of the accident, is a collision. (Also includes colliding with the tow of another vessel, regardless of the nature of the tow, e.g., surfboard, ski ropes, skier, tow line, etc.)

COLLISION WITH FIXED OBJECT - The striking of any fixed object above or below the surface of the water.

COLLISION WITH A FLOATING OBJECT - Collision with any waterborne object (except another vessel), above or below the surface, that is free to move with the tide, current or wind.

CRUISING - Proceeding normally, unrestricted, with an absence of drastic rudder or engine changes.

DOCUMENTED VESSEL - A vessel of five or more net tons, owned by a citizen of the United States, for which a certificate of documentation is issued by the United States Coast Guard, pursuant to 46 C.F.R. part 67. Documented vessels are not required to display an assigned registration number.

DRIFTING - Underway, but not proceeding over the bottom with use of engines, oars or sails, being carried along only by the tide, current or wind.

FALLS OVERBOARD - A person who unintentionally exits the vessel.

FAULT OF OPERATOR - Speeding, overloading, improper loading, not properly seating occupants of boat, no proper look-out, carelessness, failure to heed weather warnings, operating recklessly in a congested area, not observing the rules of the road, unsafe fueling practices, lack of experience, ignorance of aids to navigation, lack of caution in an unfamiliar area of operation, improper installation or maintenance of hull, machinery or equipment, poor judgment, recklessness, overpowering the boat, panic, proceeding in an unseaworthy craft, operating a motorboat near persons in the water, starting the engine with clutch engaged or throttle advanced or irresponsible boat handling (such as quick, sharp turns).

FIBERGLASS (PLASTIC) HULL - Hulls of fiber-reinforced plastic. The laminate consists of two basic components: the reinforcing material (glass filaments) and the plastic or resin in which it is embedded.

FIRE/EXPLOSION (FUEL) - Accidental combustion of vessel fuel or liquids (including their vapors).

FIRE/EXPLOSION (OTHER) - Accidental burning or explosion of any material onboard, except, vessel fuels or their vapors.

FLORIDA INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY - The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway from the Georgia state line north of Fernandina to Miami, the Port of Canaveral lock and canal to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway; the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Miami to Key West; the Okeechobee Waterway, Stuart to Fort Myers; the St. Johns River, Jacksonville to Sanford; the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Anclote to Fort Myers; the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Carrabelle to Tampa Bay; Carrabelle to Anclote open bay section (using Gulf of Mexico); the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Carrabelle to the Alabama state line west of Pensacola; and the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee and Flint rivers in Florida.

FLOODING - Filling with water, regardless of method of ingress, but retaining sufficient buoyancy to remain on the surface.

FUELING - Any stage of the fueling operation, primarily concerned with introduction of explosive or combustible vapors or liquids onboard.

GROUNDING - Running aground of a vessel, striking or pounding on rocks, reefs or shoals, "stranding."

IMPROPER LOADING - Loading, including weight shifting of the vessel, causing instability, limited maneuverability or dangerously reduced freeboard.

INBOARD/OUTBOARD - Also referred to as inboard/outdrive. Regarded as inboard because the power unit is located inside the boat and has a stern-mounted propulsion unit.

INFLATABLE LIFE JACKET - A sleeveless jacket or vest with inflatable chambers designed to keep a person afloat in the water. May also be manufactured to resemble a belt or fanny pack when not inflated.

LIFE JACKET - A sleeveless jacket or vest that is filled with buoyant material designed to keep a person afloat in the water.

MANEUVERING - Changing of course, speed or similar boat handling action during which a high degree of alertness is required or the boat is imperiled because of the operation, such as docking.

MOTORBOAT - Any vessel which is propelled or powered by machinery and which is used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water and any vessel equipped with propulsion machinery and not more than sixty-five feet in length.

NAVIGATION RULES - The International Navigation Rules Act of 1977, 33 U.S.C., for vessels on waters outside of established navigation lines of demarcation as specified in 33 C.F.R. Part 80 or the Inland Navigation Rules Act of 1980, 33 U.S.C. ss 2001 for vessels on all waters not outside of such lines of demarcation.

NON-RESIDENT - A citizen of the United States who has not established residence in this state and has not continuously resided in this state for one year and in one county for the six months immediately preceding the initiation of a vessel titling or registration action.

NO PROPER LOOK-OUT - No proper watch, the failure of the operator to perceive danger because no one was serving as look-out or the person so serving failed in that regard.

NUMBERED VESSEL - An undocumented vessel numbered by a state with a numbering system approved by the United States Coast Guard under Chapter 123, Title 46, U.S.C.

OPEN MOTORBOAT - Craft of open construction specifically built for operating with a motor, including boats canopied or fitted with temporary partial shelters.

OPERATE - To be in charge of or in command of or in actual physical control of a vessel upon the waters of this state, or to exercise control over or to have responsibility for a vessel's navigation or safety while the vessel is underway upon the waters of this state, or to control or steer a vessel being towed by another vessel upon the waters of this state.

OWNER - A person, other than a lien holder, having the property or title to a vessel. The term includes a person entitled to the use or possession of a vessel subject to an interest in another person, reserved or created by agreement and securing payment of performance of an obligation, but the term excludes a lessee under a lease not intended as security.

OUTBOARD - An engine not permanently affixed to the structure of the craft, regardless of the method or location used to mount the engine; e.g., motor wells, kicker pits, motor pockets, etc.

OVERLOADING - Excessive loading of the vessel causing instability, limited maneuverability, dangerously reduced freeboard, etc.

PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICE (PFD) - A life jacket or similar buoyancy aid. See also LIFE JACKET.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT - A vessel less than 16 feet in length which uses an inboard motor powering a water jet pump as its primary source of motive power and which is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel, rather than in the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel.

RECKLESS OPERATION - A person is guilty of reckless operation of a vessel who operates any vessel, or manipulates any water skis, aquaplane or similar device, in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property at a speed or in a manner as to endanger, or likely to endanger, life or limb, damage the property of or injure any person.

REGISTRATION - A state operating license on a vessel which is issued with an identifying number, an annual certificate of registration and a decal designating the year for which a registration fee was paid.

REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENT - An accident that results in personal injury requiring medical treatment beyond immediate first aid, death, disappearance of any person from onboard under circumstances which indicate the possibility of death or injury or damage to any vessel or other property in an apparent aggregate amount of at least \$2,000 or total loss of a vessel.

RESIDENT - A citizen of the United States who has established residency in this state and has continuously resided in this state for one year and in one county for the six months immediately preceding the initiation of a vessel titling or registration action.

RULES OF THE ROAD -The Inland and International Navigation Rules for the prevention of collision at sea.

SAILBOAT OR AUXILIARY SAILBOAT - Any vessel whose sole source of propulsion is the natural element (i.e., wind), or a craft intended to be propelled primarily by sail, regardless of size or type.

SINKING - Losing enough buoyancy to settle below the surface of the water.

SPEEDING - Operating at a speed, possibly below the posted speed limit, above that which a reasonable and prudent person would operate under the circumstances.

STEEL HULL - Hulls of sheet steel or steel alloy, not those of steel ribs and wood, canvas or plastic hull coverings.

STRUCK BY BOAT OR PROPELLER - Striking of a victim who is outside of the boat, but not necessarily a swimmer.

SWAMPING - Filling with water, particularly over the side, but retaining sufficient buoyancy to remain on the surface.

TOWED WATER SPORT MISHAP – A water sport accident associated with vessel passenger(s) or person(s) being towed or surfing the wake created by a vessel. Includes, but is not limited to, water skiing, wakeboarding, tubing, parasailing, etc.

TOWING - Engaged in towing any vessel, fishing gear or object other than a person.

VESSEL - Is synonymous with boat as referenced in S.1 (b), Article VII of the State Constitution, and includes every description of watercraft, barge and airboat, other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as means of transportation on water.

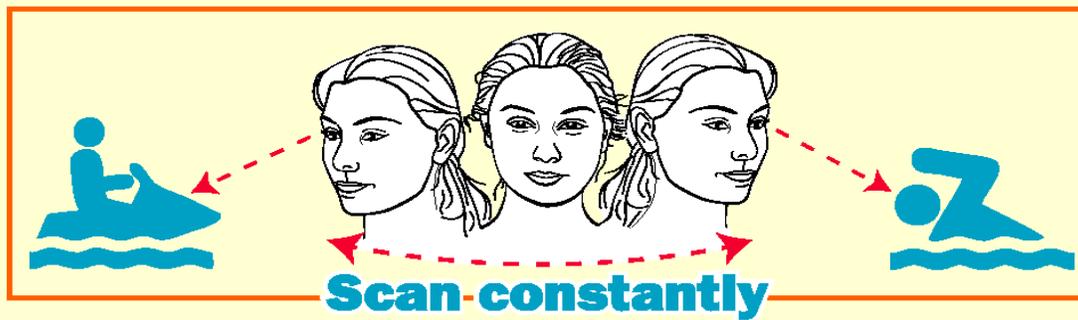
WOOD HULL - Hulls of plywood, molded plywood, wood planking or any other wood fiber in its natural consistency, including those of wooden construction that have been "sheathed" with fiberglass or sheet metal.

IMPORTANT

boating safety messages to remember

Always know what's going on around your boat.

Most boating accidents involve collisions.
Staying alert is critical!



Develop a "Life Jacket Habit."

Most people who die in boating accidents drown. Try out an inflatable life jacket and, most of all, wear it!



Alcohol use is a leading cause of boating deaths.

Alcohol and boating really don't mix, so save it for later. When you drink, you don't think!

From your friends at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
Boating and Waterways Section
Phone: (850) 488-5600
www.MyFWC.com



FWC reminds you to not spoil your boating fun.
Slow down and look around.

